

Can. 12  
1899



# Western Canada



**MANITOBA  
ASSINIBOIA  
ALBERTA  
SASKATCHEWAN**

1899

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF HON. CLIFFORD SEXTON, MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR,  
OTTAWA, CANADA

# Western Canada

## Manitoba AND The Northwest Territories

Assiniboia  
Alberta  
Saskatchewan

INFORMATION AS TO THE RESOURCES AND CLIMATES  
OF THESE COUNTRIES FOR INTENDING  
FARMERS, RANCHERS, Etc.

1899

OTTAWA  
Printed under authority of Hon Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior



"It is a land of rivers flowing free,  
Lake mirrored mountains rising proud and stern,  
A land of spreading prairies ocean-wide."

—J. H. BOWEN

## Western Canada



TEN years ago, in a paper read before the Canadian Club of New York, the statement was made that "the people of the United States had been so long accustomed to see Canada figure on our maps as a narrow strip, with scattered villages and towns along the St. Lawrence and the great lakes, with innumerable smaller lakes and rivers, that it is difficult for us to realize that a rival nation, with a territory vastly larger than the whole American Union, has risen upon our borders, and, like a young giant, set about making a glorious future for itself; building up great manufactories, levelling the mountains, filling up the valleys, bridging the rivers of the continent, dig-

ging canals, constructing thousands of miles of railroad, whereby to consolidate its empire, and make accessible its boundless national resources of timber, mines and

"agricultural lands." Ten years have passed since then; the development which is spoken of as being surprising had then but begun, and it has since made most rapid progress, especially in Western Canada. The Territories of that day have been changed into Provinces and Districts, with Parliamentary and Municipal organization, placing the thousands who have decided to make their homes in the vast domain lying to the west of Lake Superior in possession of all the advantages of the older sections of the Dominion. To-day those great plains are being settled with a thrifty, prosperous and satisfied class of people. It is true that in the past there has been more or less ignorance on the part of a great many respecting Western Canada, but this is rapidly diminishing, as reports are sent back to their friends by those who have ventured to make their homes there, and who have almost invariably met with success.

Before speaking of the conditions which favor this, and, in fact, are promoters of it, it will be interesting to refer to the extent of this vast territory, which still holds out inducements to the man who is dissatisfied with his present lot, who has but little prospects of relief from burdensome taxes, from unproductive farms and excessive rent, and with no hope of ever owning a home that he may call his own; or the man who lives in a congested district, whose family is growing up, his sons and daughters approaching manhood and womanhood, and he with but little in the way of temporal acquisitions.

The Dominion of Canada, of which what is known as "Western Canada" forms a large part, stretches along a line immediately north of the United States, having as its eastern and western boundaries the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans respectively, while to the north it embraces all the territory stretching to the Arctic Ocean, and includes the district of Yukon, where are found the celebrated gold fields, the recent discovery of which has caused greater ex-

citement than has anything of the kind for generations past. It also includes the Province of British Columbia, with its vast mineral wealth, only a small portion of which has been developed. In this connection it might be said that in the month of May of this year one of the gold mines in that Province was reported to have been sold for \$3,000,000. The Dominion of Canada comprises an area of 3,456,382 square miles, made up as follows :

	Sq. Miles.
Ontario.....	222,000
Quebec.....	228,900
New Brunswick.....	28,200
Nova Scotia.....	20,600
Prince Edward Island.....	2,000
Manitoba.....	73,956
British Columbia.....	383,300
Provisional District of Assiniboia, about.....	89,535
"    "    Keewatin    ".....	282,000
"    "    Saskatchewan    ".....	107,092
"    "    Alberta    ".....	106,100
"    "    Athabasca    ".....	104,500
Northwest Territories.....	906,000
Territory east of Keewatin and south of Hudson's Bay.....	196,800
Territory of Hudson's Bay.....	358,000
Islands in Arctic Ocean and Hudson's Bay.....	300,000
Great Lakes and River St. Lawrence east to longitude 66°, not included in above areas.....	47,400
Area of Canada.....	3,456,383

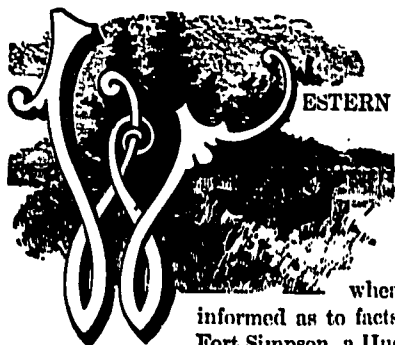
The distance through Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific is, in round figures, 3,000 miles, the City of Winnipeg, the Metropolis of Western Canada, being situate about midway. The Provinces of Quebec and Ontario lie to the east, and supply the Great West with a large quantity of the articles required in the work of tilling its immense wheat fields. These two Provinces comprise an area of about 450,000 square miles, and stretch from the Gulf of the St. Lawrence to a point near the Lake of the Woods. Western Canada comprises the Province of Manitoba, and the Districts of Assiniboia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Keewatin and Athabasca, having an area of 760,000 square miles, in addition to which there are the Northwest Territories, and the islands in the Arctic Ocean and Hudson's Bay, with an additional area of 1,700,800 square miles. The Districts

of Assiniboin, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Athabasca alone constitute a region larger than all Russia in Europe. There was a time when this vast region was supposed to be fit only for the habitation of the beaver, the buffalo and the bear; but that day is past, as since the movement of immigration westward it has been demonstrated that this region contains the finest wheat and grazing lands in the world. This does not apply only to the comparatively well-known Provinces of Manitoba and the Districts of Assiniboin and Alberta, but to the whole region lying four hundred miles northward of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and as far up as the Peace River country, which not only produces wheat which is known as the best "No. 1 Hard," but is rich in minerals, and to-day is being explored by the seeker after precious metals. To the west lies the Province of British Columbia, with its 383,500 square miles of territory, its innumerable rivers, rich in fish, its gold, silver and copper mines, and its fertile valleys, capable of producing the choicest fruit in the greatest abundance.

The purpose of this pamphlet is to deal with that portion of Western Canada lying between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains, as it is to that vast district the attention of agriculturists in all parts of the world is at present being directed. It is to that district they are looking for homes for themselves and their children, and for the solution of the problems created by the overcrowding of population in the older countries and the United States. Here are to be found millions of acres of rich, fertile lands, which require but little previous knowledge of farming on the part of the settler in order to obtain handsome returns for his efforts in tilling the soil.



## The World's Bread Basket is Western Canada



**WESTERN CANADA** is a *terra incognita* to a great many who have not had their attention directed to it. In fact, it is not long since a great American writer, in an article on the "Wheat Supply of Europe and America," made the statement that to the north of the international boundary there is only a narrow fringe of land capable of producing wheat. In replying to this, another writer, better informed as to facts, said that wheat could be successfully grown at Fort Simpson, a Hudson's Bay Company's post lying at the junction of the Laird and Mackenzie Rivers, near the intersection of longitude 122° west and latitude 62° north. Now, Fort Simpson is as far northwest of Winnipeg (the metropolis of Western Canada) as Winnipeg is northwest of New York. Not only is it possible to raise wheat at this degree of latitude, and that of a better quality than it is possible to grow in any other country, but two hundred miles north of that point rye and oats are grown; whilst two hundred miles still further north barley and potatoes are successfully produced.

## 279,000 Square Miles of Agricultural Country

In speaking of the extent of the country referred to in these pages, one writer says: "Leaving out the 400,000 square miles of Keewatin, the 382,000 square miles of British Columbia, with its untold wealth of forests, fisheries and mines, and Athabasca, with its area of 122,000 square miles, we have left, then, Manitoba and the districts of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, extending four hundred miles north and south, and nine hundred miles east and west, and embracing an area of 359,000 square miles. If we draw a line through Harper's Ferry, from the northern boundary of Pennsylvania to the southern line of Virginia, and take all west of that line to the Missouri River, embracing part of the States named and all of West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri and Iowa, we shall have an American territory equal in extent and area, and in no wise superior in agricultural resources, to the Canadian territory under consideration!"

A recent writer, resident in Sweden, gives an idea of the size of Canada by making the following comparison: "Canada is, in brief, as large as the whole world of Europe."

In Canada there are two hundred and seventy-nine thousand square miles of land not surpassed in fertility by any area of similar size on the face of the globe, most of which is embraced in what is here described as Western Canada.

The general conditions as regards religion, form of government, etc., which exist in Canada are described in the following paragraphs:

There is no State Church in Canada, and the utmost religious liberty prevails. Newly arrived adherents of nearly all denominations will have no difficulty in finding congenial church society. Churches and chapels are numerous and widely distributed. Each church manages

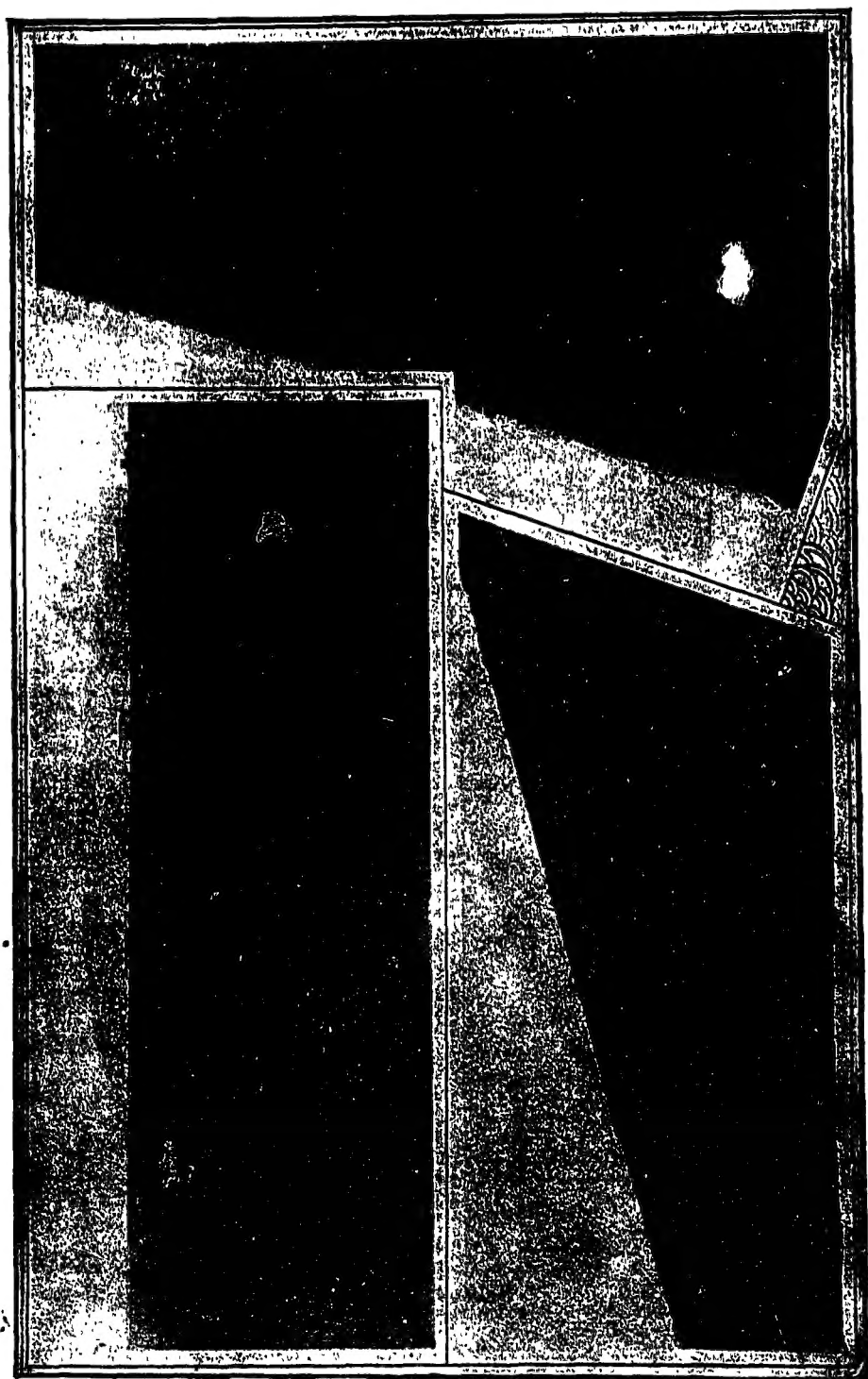
**RELIGION** its own affairs; and the stipends of the clergy are paid out of endowments, pew rents, and other such funds. There are no tithes or church rates, excepting in the Province of Quebec, where the Roman Catholic Church possesses some qualified power in this respect, but only over persons professing that faith. Christian churches of various beliefs are found in the country towns as well as in the cities.

The Government of Canada is Federal. The provinces have local legislatures. By the British North America Act, before referred to, the executive government and the authority of and over Canada remains in the Queen.

**CONSTITUTION OF GOVERNMENT** The Governor-General for the time being carries on the government in the name of Her Majesty, but is paid out of the Canadian revenue. The Dominion Parliament consists of an Upper House, styled the Senate (81 members), and the House of Commons (213 members). The Senators are nominated for life by the Governor-General on the advice of the Executive Council. The Commons are elected for five years. The franchise for both the Federal Parliament and the Provincial Legislatures practically confers the voting power upon nearly all male residents of full age. At the head of each of the provinces is a Lieutenant-Governor, appointed by the Governor-General and paid by the Dominion. He is the executive head of the Provincial Government and medium of communication between the Provinces and the Federal Government.

The duration of the Local Assemblies is fixed at four years. The powers of the Dominion Parliament, the Provincial Legislatures, and the contributions to the





Harvest Scenes in Western Canada

revenues of the latter from the Dominion Treasury, are defined by the British North American Act and Acts passed under it. Legislation upon local matters is assigned, as a general rule, to the Provinces.

There is generally a perfect system of municipal government in the Provinces constituting the Dominion, by which municipal councils, elected by the people, control and govern matters of purely local and municipal concern. In every Act of Parliament or Legislature one object sought has been to give the utmost possible freedom to localities to manage their own local affairs.

### EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

An important consideration for a settler here, as elsewhere, is the educational facilities available; and the school system of Manitoba, as now settled, is by educationists claimed to be equal to any on the continent. The rural schools are about every three miles or so apart in the settled districts, and the system is free. There is no taxation of pupils for attendance. The Government makes an annual grant of a considerable sum to each school, and all the expenses, teacher's salary included, are paid by this grant, and a general taxation of the land within the district, whether occupied or unoccupied, or owned by parents or those having no children. This assures the poor all the advantages of primary education that are enjoyed by the rich. The teachers are all skilled educationists, duly certificated. In these schools all the ordinary branches for every-day life are taught. In many of the village schools, where two or more teachers are employed, a still higher education is given, and in the city and town schools collegiate institutes are maintained where students are fitted for the several colleges at Winnipeg and other cities in Canada. One-eighteenth part of the whole of the "Fertile Belt" from Pembina to the Saskatchewan, and beyond it, is set apart for the maintenance of schools. A few figures on this point will not be uninteresting.

In 1871 the school population of Manitoba was 817, and now it is 50,003. In 1883 the average attendance was 5,064, and now it is 23,247. In 1883 there were 246 teachers in the province, and the number is now 1,143, about one-half males, and there appears to be no scarcity, as 1,017 new certificates were granted during the past year. These figures show, on the average, one teacher for every 240 people, and for every 33 children. The entire value of the school properties of the country is now \$750,351, or nearly \$3 per head of the entire population, a condition of things to be envied by many an older country. The average salary paid to teachers in rural districts is \$368 a year, and the highest in cities is \$1,800. In addition to the teachers being all well certificated, the schools are inspected at intervals by competent teachers, to see that the most approved methods are fully observed.

The schools are non-sectarian, and are national in character, and the secular branches and general public morality are alone taught during regular school hours, religion being taught, when desired, during hours set apart for the purpose.

In connection with education may be mentioned the Government Experimental Farm at Brandon, where all the different kinds of grain, seeds, roots, vegetables, grasses, small fruits, trees and shrubs that it is sought to grow in the Province, are sown on all the varied soils which are found on the farm, and a faithful record of the results is preserved, for the information of the entire agricultural population of the country, and occasionally published in the newspapers, of which most of the small towns have one and the cities several. Similar experimental farms are to be found in the Northwest Territories and British Columbia.

In addition to this, the Government sends around to the towns and villages a travelling school of dairy instructors. In these schools lectures are given, accompanied by practical operations, by competent men, in all the arts of cattle raising,

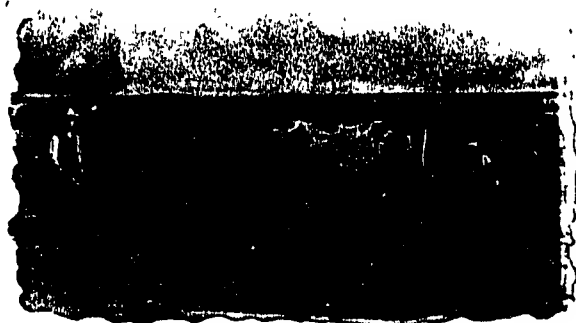
butter and cheese-making, etc., that all may learn the best methods known to the country without loss of time or money to the settlers.

Besides these, again, in Manitoba there is a system of Farmers' Institutes, there being now 23 in the system, at which meetings are held at regular intervals in the important points of the country. Practical men here make known their most successful methods of all farming operations, and those present interchange their experiences.

No question of naturalization arises in connection with the emigration of British subjects to Canada. Settling in the Dominion makes no more change in this respect than a removal from York, Glasgow, Swansea or

**NATURALIZATION** Dublin, to London, and a new arrival has all the privileges of a Canadian-born fellow-subject. This is very important when compared with the position of a person who contemplates emigrating from the United Kingdom to the United States, for example. It is required that everyone from the British Islands who desires to become an American citizen shall

take two oaths, one of intention and one of fact, the latter after five years' residence. The effect of these oaths is pointedly and specifically to renounce allegiance to the Queen, to give up one's British birthright, and in the event of war to become an enemy to the land of one's birth. In some of the States—the State of New York, for instance—a British subject cannot hold real estate without taking such oaths, and cannot in any



His First Start—No Capital

of the States exercise any of the political rights of American citizenship without so doing. On the other hand, the Canadian naturalization laws are marked by a spirit of greater liberality towards foreigners, and such persons can transact any business and hold real estate without being naturalized. By residing three years and taking the oath of allegiance, they become naturalized British subjects. The oath is one of simple allegiance, and does not require any offensive renunciations. Naturalization confers political and all other rights.

Very naturally, an intending settler with a family will inquire, "What are the social conditions of the country? If I locate in Western Canada, shall I enjoy any of the blessings of educated life, or shall I be forever shut out from all congenial society?" This country is, so far,

#### **SOCIAL CONDITIONS**

settled with many of the best families of the countries whence they emigrated. It is nothing surprising to find college graduates working their own farms, and the most experienced agriculturists, mechanics, merchants and men of all callings, in the country towns and villages.

Ample provision is made for the care and protection of the blind and the insane. There is a home for incurables, a school for the deaf and dumb, hospitals for the sick, etc. The existence of these institutions is, however, no evidence that

the country has more than its share of the afflicted, as they were constructed for the care of those of the Territories to the west, as well as for those in the Province of Manitoba.

There are a number of friendly societies, with branches in the smaller places, and in many of the country schoolhouses which dot the prairie Masonic and other lodges often meet, and gatherings of an intellectual character are frequently held. There is nothing lacking in town and country to make life enjoyable that could be expected in any new country.

Many of the readers of this pamphlet, if they are residents of any of the Western States, or, in fact, of some of the Eastern States, will remember that in the early history of these States complaints against the climate

### THE CLIMATE

were frequently made. It was said that fruit could not be grown; that it was not possible to raise cattle successfully; and that farming operations could not be carried on with any degree of success, but long since it has been demonstrated how erroneous these ideas were. In the same way, what is now Manitoba, one of the greatest wheat-producing districts of the world, was spoken of as a wilderness, fit only for buffaloes and foxes. It is hardly necessary to state how completely these allegations have been falsified, and every year is proving the fallacy of similar statements respecting the Western Provinces. The climate of Western Canada, as described by those who have lived there for some years, is very agreeable, and preferred to that of the east. Disease is little known, while epidemics are unheard of. Spring commences about the first of April. Some seasons, however, seeding is begun early in March, the snow having entirely disappeared. But spring scarcely puts in an appearance before it is followed by summer, and it is almost impossible to describe the delights of that pleasant season, with its long days and cool nights. It is in this fact we find an explanation of the extraordinarily rapid growth of vegetation, which, under the influence of this long-continued sunshine, exceeds anything known in lower latitudes. The soft maple tree has been known to grow more than five feet in a single season.

It should be observed here that altitude affects climate no less than latitude, and the great continental plain of North America decreases steadily in altitude from south to north. One writer in referring to this, says: "Mexico is two miles high. Denver is 5,200 feet above sea level, while Edmonton, in Alberta, is 2,158 feet."

In describing the effect of the warm winds of the Pacific on the Alberta district, and comparing the generous climate there with that of the districts south of the boundary line, the statement is advanced that "the Rocky Mountains, which in Colorado are twenty degrees from the coast, are but ten degrees distant in latitude 50°, and the pass in the Rockies through which the Peace River flows from west to east is but 2,800 feet above sea level, or more than a mile lower than the summit station on the Union-Pacific Railway in Wyoming. Across this mountain, however, so much diminished in width and height, come the warm Chinook breezes, which make the climate of Alberta so mild."

The velocity of the wind at Edmonton and Alberta rarely exceeds twelve miles an hour, so that it is gentle, as well as warm and genial in its effects.

The autumn season is one of the most delightful that can be imagined. It extends into the month of November, snow sometimes not falling until late in December, giving the farmer the opportunity of finishing up his threshing, completing the marketing of his thousands of bushels of No. 1 hard wheat, and leaving him sufficient time to put his land in condition for the crop of the following year.

As for the winters, they entirely lose the dread with which timorous people have regarded them, after a single experience. It is difficult to obtain from the reading of a record of temperature any idea of the comforts or discomforts that prevail. It is well known that humidity is of equal importance, probably of greater importance, while the velocity of the wind is also no less important.

A contribution to one of the eastern magazines says :

"In the crisp, dry atmosphere of Western Canada the writer has experienced temperature of 40° below zero without discomfort ; and, while wearing exactly the same clothing as in the other case, has been chilled to the marrow in the moisture-laden air of the Atlantic coast when the thermometer registered 10° above."



Jas. Davidson's Farm, Brandon, Man.

Speaking of the climate of Western Canada to a young Englishman who has just returned from a visit to the old country, he said : "It was when I visited

#### WHAT THE ENGLISH THINK OF IT

"England that I began to appreciate the climate of Western Canada. It was not long before I began to realize that I "would again require the physical restorer of the pure air "of the prairies, and I was not long in making up my mind "to return. A person who has never been away from "England can scarcely understand how a winter with the thermometer registering "at times from 20° to 30° below zero (as it sometimes does here) is preferable to "the changeable weather which is almost always experienced in England at this "season of the year. There is no comparison—the winters of Western Canada being "infinitely preferable. When in England last winter I was forced to endure fog, "rain and snow, with very little sunshine thrown in, and in all it was most dis- "comforting. With the steady winters here, modified by the small percentage of "humidity, your blood has a circulation ; vim and energy are acquired, in contrast "to which the winters of England are most enervating."

It might be well to illustrate here the effect of the almost perpetual sunshine on the staple article of the country, namely, wheat. The wheat of Western Canada is well known to be extremely hard, the yield also being

#### EFFECT OF CLIMATE ON GROWTH OF WHEAT

from 30 to 50 per cent. more than in the States south of the boundary line. The principal causes for this are that the further you travel towards the northern limit of its growth, the finer is the quality of the soil you find. The sub-soil, throughout the intense heat of summer, is kept moist by the slow melting of the deep winter frosts, the moisture ascending to the surface and nourishing

the roots of the grain, thus stimulating growth and producing a bountiful crop. Again, the sunshine is longer just at the needed time, when the heads are ripening. Heat alone will not bring wheat to maturity, solar light being a necessity, and the greater its amount the better the result obtained. From the 15th of June to the 1st of July there are nearly two hours more daylight in every twenty-four in Manitoba than in Ohio.

In the spring and summer wild flowers are as common as in England; and in August wild fruits and delicate ferns abound. Of course, there are good and bad seasons in Canada, as everywhere else; but, taken altogether, the climate is a decidedly good one.

The shooting season in Western Canada is an exceedingly interesting one, not only to sportsmen, but to all who love the appearance of wild life in the woods, in the waters and on the prairies.

Game birds abound in every district of the country. Beautiful flocks of prairie chicken, the gem of all table game, are found on every farm, sometimes covering grain stacks by their vast numbers. Every pond, stream and lake has its varied flocks of wild fowl. The large and beautiful mallard, the swift-winged teal, the merganser, the butter-ball, the shoveler, the redhead, and almost every variety of duck, can be discovered by the sportsman wherever water can be found. Besides the prairie chicken and the duck there are innumerable flocks of other game birds to be found everywhere, such as geese, turkeys, cranes, pelican, plover, partridge, grouse, and many others. Of four-footed game there is also an abundance. The timid and playful hare, deer, black and cinnamon bear, the high-headed elk, moose and antelope are all found in parts of Western Canada, especially in the northern portions surrounding the great lakes.

The fisheries of Canada are the largest in the world, embracing fully 13,000 miles of a sea coast, in addition to inland seas, innumerable lakes and a great number of rivers. They offer many advantages to those engaged in similar occupations in other countries, and who may have suffered from the bad seasons of recent years.

The fishing industry of Western Canada (exclusive of British Columbia) is confined to the waters of the inland lakes, and is proving very profitable. Besides supplying the local needs, considerable exporting is done. Winnipeg, Manitoba, Winnipegosis and Dauphin are the principal lakes. The rivers, however, abound in fish, and large quantities are caught, the settlers being able to lay up stores for future use.

The importance of the fisheries of Canada is very clearly shown in the annual report recently issued by Sir Louis Davies. The value of the products of the fisheries during 1897 was \$20,400,000. The industry gave occupation to 75,000 men, and required 36,000 craft of various kinds. The principal fish caught and their values were as follows: Salmon, \$4,000,000; cod, \$3,619,000; herring, \$2,900,000; and lobster, \$2,200,000. By provinces the catch was: Nova Scotia, \$6,070,000; New Brunswick, \$4,800,000; Quebec, \$2,025,000; British Columbia, \$4,183,000; Ontario, \$1,605,000; Prince Edward Island, \$967,000; and Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, \$745,000. New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario show increases aggregating \$575,000; while the other provinces show an aggregate decrease of \$367,000. In Manitoba the value of the whitefish, the principal fish caught, was \$228,000, and pickerel \$42,000. The value of whitefish caught in the Territories was \$261,000.



An Inland Steamer



Chas. Lawes One Mile South-west of Carberry

Railways nowadays are a prime essential to a good grain market. The several systems of railways operating in Western Canada supply a service that is really excellent. Nearly every farming district is within easy

## **RAILWAYS**

access of one of the lines of railway, while branches are being extended as the conditions of settlement demand.

It is estimated that with the projected lines and branches of the Canadian Pacific, the Northern Pacific and Manitoba, the Manitoba and North Western, the Great North West Central, Dauphin Line, Calgary and Edmonton, Regina, Prince Albert and Long Lake, the necessities of new settlers will be fairly well met. Therefore, while it is possible in some cases that in order to secure the advantages of free homesteads it may be necessary to go some little distance from the railway, the policy of the Government is to push forward the construction of colonization lines, so that in a very short time even these new settlements will have the advantage of railway facilities. Competition between the different lines is relied upon to improve rates from time to time, and in some cases rates are regulated by Act of Parliament. The extension of railways in Western Canada during the past few years has been one of the most strongly marked features of the progress of the country. The Canadian Pacific Railway crosses this country, with its iron belt running through to the Pacific Ocean, the prairies of Manitoba, Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan being a great fertile link connecting Eastern Canada with the rich Province of British Columbia, with its mines and untold wealth in lumber and fisheries, as well as considerable stretches of excellent agricultural lands. This and the other railways mentioned have opened up a large tract of fertile land in Manitoba and the Northwest, ready for the plough, and considered to be the largest wheat-growing area in the world.

Without the railways the country must have remained an "illimitable wilderness," as Lord Beaconsfield described it. With them, there is afforded the prospect of comfortable homes for millions of inhabitants, increased markets, and a new era of prosperity for the whole Dominion of Canada. The splendid Saskatchewan country, hitherto closed to settlement, has been opened recently by two new lines. Others are projected, including one in the direction of Hudson's Bay, in anticipation of the route between Hudson's Straits and Liverpool becoming available. The Canadian Pacific Railway's lines in Southern Manitoba and Eastern Assiniboia have also been extended, securing the opening of the Souris coal fields and an unlimited supply of cheap fuel to the settlers. Not only have the people of Manitoba connection with the Pacific Ocean and with Eastern Canada through British territory, and access to the great lakes, but there are also three lines running to the United States boundary, joining there the American system of railways.

Hitherto the markets of China and Japan, New Zealand, Australasia, India and the Pacific coast of South America, have been closed to Canada, but access has been gained to them under improved conditions, which give Canada advantages of time and distance over all other countries. A regular line of steamers has for some time been running between Vancouver, Yokohama, Shanghai and Hong Kong, and in consequence of the Imperial Government having determined to establish a mail service via this route, between England and the East, and of subsidies granted both by the Imperial and Dominion Governments, steamers unequalled by any hitherto seen on the Pacific are now in that service. These have further increased the saving of time, and afford additional facilities for traffic of all kinds. As a result of this service the mails are conveyed from Yokohama to London, England, in less than one-half the time taken by the Suez Canal route. Canada has over 7,000 vessels on the shipping register, mostly owned in Atlantic ports, and there is every reason why a similar prosperity and marine enterprise and development should take place on the Pacific. The St. Lawrence route is the most beautiful of any leading





Prairie Travel as it was

into the interior of North America, and it has the great advantage of affording smooth water for a considerable part of the voyage. Its popularity is yearly increasing. The beauty of the St. Lawrence River, the trip through the fertile prairies of Manitoba, the traversing of the plains of the Saskatchewan—not long ago the roaming ground of herds of countless buffaloes and the home of the Cree and Blackfoot Indians—and lastly the passage through the unequalled scenery of the Rocky Mountains to the shores of the Pacific, combine to place the Canadian trans-continental route above all others in the estimation of European travellers.

The forests of Canada are rich with a great variety of trees which are useful for lumber of many kinds, for building purposes, for furniture, and, in many parts of Canada, for fuel. Among the varieties are the maple, elm,

### FORESTS

ash, Douglas fir, Alaska cedar, spruce, balsam, red cedar, hemlock, walnut, oak, butternut, basswood, poplar, chestnut, mountain ash, willow, black and white birch, and others.

Besides the large tracts of forest, both in and adjacent to Manitoba, there are coal areas within and contiguous to the province of such extent as to be practically inexhaustible. It has been discovered that between Red

### FUEL

River and the Rocky Mountains there are some 65,000 square miles of coal-bearing strata. The principal farming districts of Western Canada are within easy reach of firewood, while the farmer of Alberta is especially favoured, on account of his being able to go to the banks of the rivers and from there get all the coal he requires, in some cases at the bare cost of handling and hauling it home. Extensive collieries are now operated at Canmore, Lethbridge, Edmonton, and Anthracite in Alberta, and at many other points small mines are worked for the immediate wants of the settlers. The coal mined at the first three of the above-mentioned points is bituminous, while that at the latter, as indicated by the name, is anthracite, and of first quality. Coal is also mined in south-eastern Assiniboia, and, although of the lignite family, makes fairly good fuel.

The Legislature of Manitoba has effected an arrangement by which this coal is to be supplied at a rate not to exceed \$2.50 to \$5.00 per ton, according to locality. With the extraordinary transportation facilities possessed here, controlled and regulated as far as possible by the Legislature, and with enormous deposits of excellent coal, easily and inexpensively available, Manitoba enjoys most

exceptional advantages, assuring an ample and cheap supply to all her inhabitants.

In this country the rate of taxation is low; it is only a few cents per acre, where the settlers do not impose burdens on themselves, and under all circumstances is but a fraction of that

## TAXATION

in other parts of the continent and in Europe. In Canada the central or Federal Government does not tax the people to wipe out the federal debt, which pays only three per cent., and is therefore left undiminished.

The Canadian debt was mainly created for the construction of railways, canals and other permanent public improvement, and with its light rate of interest is comparatively but little burden on the people. As a result the Government is able to save heavy sums from customs, excise and other sources of indirect revenue, and give large subsidies to the several Provincial Governments. In Manitoba the subsidies so received amount to about \$2 per head of the population. Consequently the Provincial Government taxes but lightly for its annual expenditure. A large portion of the revenue so derived goes to support schools, roads and bridges, agricultural societies for the benefit of the farmers, the maintenance of asylums and other public institutions for the care of the afflicted. The farmer is taxed to only half the extent of the amount raised by taxation in the United States.

In Manitoba the reeve and six councillors transact the business of a municipality. They levy and collect taxes, form and readjust school districts, and build,

construct and repair roads and bridges. Low taxation is the rule all through Western Canada, and that is an important item. The stock, implements, household goods and all other personal effects belonging to the settler, as well as farm buildings and other improvements, are exempt. In this way in Manitoba the average taxes for all purposes will not exceed \$12 for a quarter section. In Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan they will not average more than \$5.00 or \$6.00 per quarter section.



Devil's Gap, Lake of the Woods

Although one of the secrets of success is abstaining from borrowing, yet it sometimes happens that a loan is necessary and occasionally it is good business to make one. All English and Eastern Canadian loan companies have branches which lend on farm securities at from

## MONEY

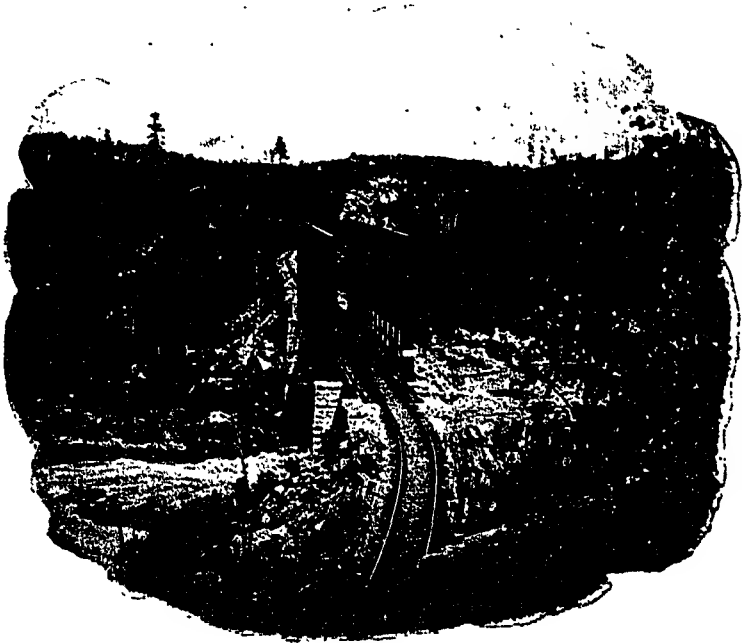
### Borrowing and Interest

6 to 10 per cent. per annum, and even lenders on chattel property are generally satisfied with 10 or 12 per cent.

All the principal towns and villages have large flour mills, the total output of these being from nine to ten thousand barrels per day, and elevators for the handling of grain whose total capacity is over 14,000,000 bushels.

**MANUFACTURING** Oatmeal mills are established at Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Pilot Mound, and other points.

Blacksmith shops, carpenter shops, wood-working shops, machine shops for repairing agricultural implements, are also found more or less in every town and important village. The railway companies have large workshops at Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Broadview, Medicine Hat, Moosejaw, Calgary and Swift Current, that give employment to many men. The demand for mills, etc., is of course always increasing as the country is brought more and more under cultivation; and the increasing population, enlarged facilities for business and travel, combine to afford opportunities for the establishment of new branches of commerce by those who have a little money and a practical knowledge of the special business.



C. P. R. Bridge at Rat Portage

## Agricultural Features

"Will yet maintain a population of 30,000,000."

—LORD SELKIRK



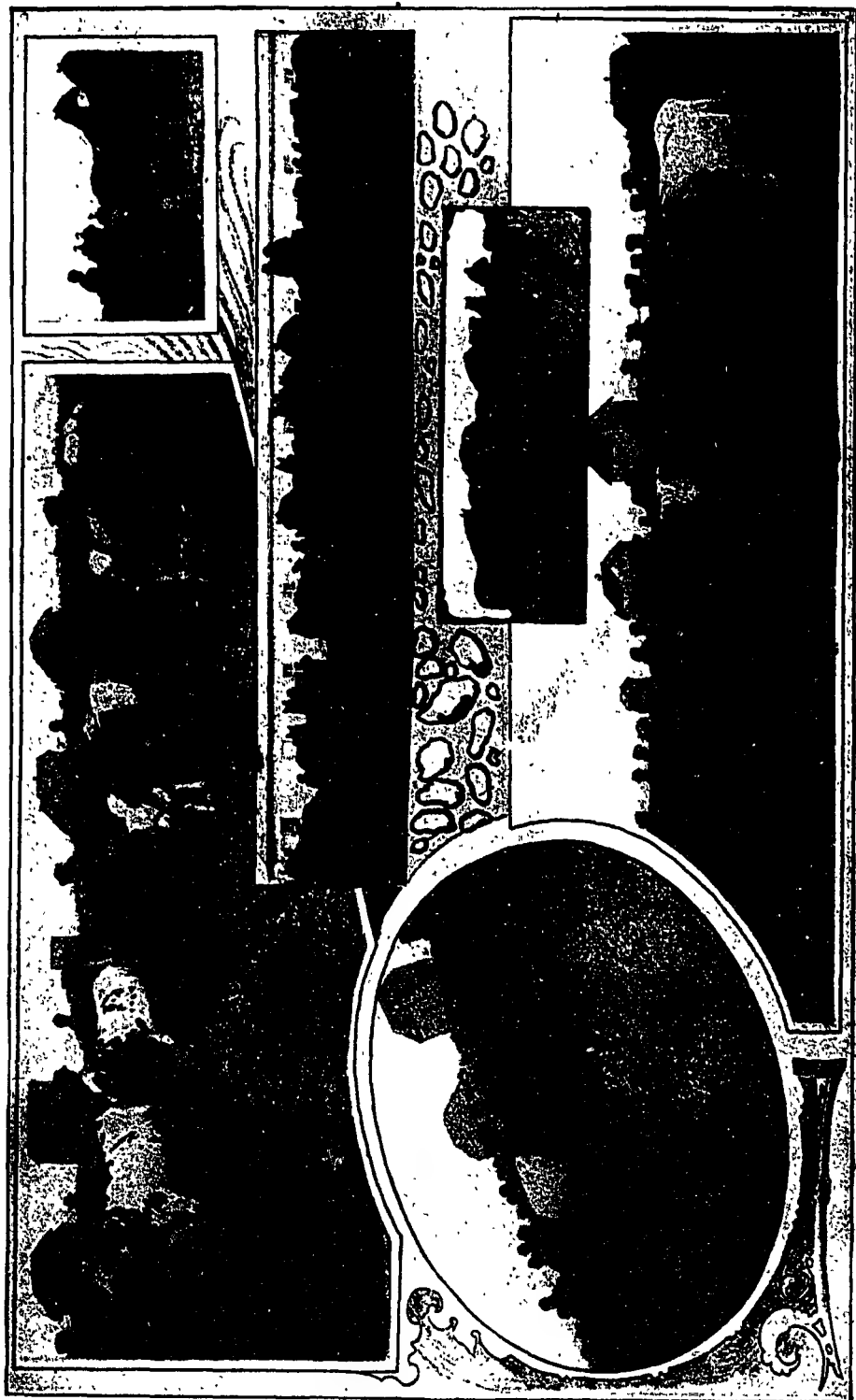
IF the valleys of the Red and Assiniboine rivers alone are capable of feeding a population of many millions, what may be said if we take into consideration the vast territory lying between Manitoba and the Rocky Mountains. A magazine writer says that Lord Selkirk was ridiculed in 1812, when he prophesied that these hyperborean alluvial plains and valleys would some day maintain a population of 30,000,000 souls. "The child is born," this writer continues, "who will see Lord Selkirk's prediction realized." The Province of Manitoba alone last year had nearly 2,000,000 acres under crop, in

wheat, oats, barley, flax and other grain, potatoes and other roots; between sixteen and seventeen million bushels of wheat being marketed. The term "the wheat field of the world," is quite appropriate when applied to this great area. For three hundred miles west of Manitoba, through the districts of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, and for many miles on either side of the railroad, 95 per cent. of the prairie is good wheat land, being a rich, black, loamy soil of inexhaustible fertility. For quality of grains the country also occupies a front rank. The Canadian exhibits of that class were the best at the Antwerp Exhibition, as testified by a committee of experts; while those who were present at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in 1886, and at the Chicago Exhibition in 1893, will not readily forget the displays made in the agricultural class by the Dominion.

At the Intercolonial Millers' Exhibition, held in the Royal Agricultural Hall, London, England, in 1892, Manitoba Fyfe Wheat was given a gold medal, of which the accompanying cut is a fac-simile.



The wheat which won this medal was grown in the Virden district.



Prize Stock at Western Fair

The average yield of wheat varies under different conditions. In some years the average has been over thirty bushels per acre, while in others it has been twenty-five, and in one or two years going as low as sixteen and eighteen bushels. But taking the lowest average, and with reasonable prices, there is no industry that will produce better profits. For years past the price of wheat all over the world has been low, but the farmers from year to year have enlarged their wheat areas. Owing to the modern and economical methods employed in cropping, harvesting, threshing, and marketing, as well as the special case with which in this prairie country of Western Canada all this is accomplished, there is always a profit. The cost of raising an acre of wheat being placed by experts at from \$5.00 to \$7.00 per acre, there have been cases in the past few years where as much as \$25.00 per acre has been realized as a profit, while in many cases it is safe to put the profit at from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per acre. With wheat at its present price, and with the prospect of good prices for some time to come, it does not require much demonstration to the practical mind to realize that the wealth of Western Canada is not altogether confined to the gold fields of the Yukon.

"Phenomenal Wheat Growing Capabilities" is a term that is sometimes applied to Western Canada by American newspapers; and while there is no desire on the part of the writer of this pamphlet to make so high sounding a claim, it is not wholly inapplicable when the average growth of wheat in many of the States of the Union is compared with the wheat crop of Western Canada. The late United States Consul Taylor, in one of his reports from Winnipeg, stated as follows:

"When harvest time came, the entire labor of the region was found to be wholly inadequate for the task before it. The wheat straw had grown so tall and stout, and was so heavily loaded down with grain, as to make the work of reaping and stacking extremely exhausting. The strength and weight of the growing grain frequently broke the reaping machines, and the utmost exertion of strong men was required to handle the great weight of the sheaves."

While "Wheat is King," it is not the only cereal grown. The crops of oats, barley and peas are phenomenal, and the growth prodigious. As will be seen from the reports of delegates who have visited the country, what they saw in this regard was a revelation to them. Oats yielded all the way from 60 to 90 bushels per acre, and in some cases have been known to exceed a hundred. One delegate writes: "One hundred bushels of oats and sixty bushels of barley per acre were common crops on well-tilled farms, and individual yields of eighty-five bushels of barley and one hundred and twenty-four of oats were well authenticated. I brought back with me, and still have, a sample of oats for which a yield per acre so phenomenal was claimed that I do not care to give the figures, but the specimen has characteristics which would make it remarkable whether the yield were two bushels or two hundred. The grain stood five feet six inches high, the heads were more than twelve inches long, and each chaff case when opened is found to contain not one or two but three perfect kernels of oats."

Barley, as has been said, yields enormously. Owing to the bright sunshine and the absence of rain during harvest it presents a bright appearance and is sought after by brewers everywhere, bringing several cents a bushel more than that grown in other countries. Peas yield splendidly, and are entirely free from grubs and bugs. They are used in fattening hogs and for other feed, and are superior in every way to corn. Experts say that the absence of hog cholera in this country is largely attributable to the excellent feed, corn not being used. It must not be thought from this that corn cannot be grown, but wheat pays so much better that but little

attention is given to it. However, a number of farmers raise corn for the purpose of fodder and use as ensilage. Some of it grows as high as ten and twelve feet.

It is admitted by all who have any knowledge of the matter that in the growth of these products Western Canada has no competitor. It is only necessary to go out in the gardens and fields to prove this. In the middle of September ripe tomatoes may be seen in great profusion; while they have been known to ripen as early as the first of July. At the agricultural fairs displays of roots, vegetables and garden products are shown that for size and quality cannot be equalled at any of the fairs in the States.

### **ROOTS AND VEGETABLES**



J. E. Maiple's, Four Miles West of Deloraine

A gentleman from Ohio, visiting one of these fairs, said, "I have never seen anything in Ohio to equal it. There were three cabbages which together weighed one hundred and twenty-six pounds, not coarse overgrown things, but as solid and sound and fine-grained as though they had weighed but six pounds each instead of forty-two. The prize potatoes weighed four and a quarter pounds each, and those which weighed three were so plentiful that no attention was paid to them."

Of beets, carrots, turnips, etc., it may also be said that they grow to an exceptionally large size. Watermelons have been grown weighing as much as seventy-five pounds, and citrons twenty-six pounds.

The results of experimental tests of varieties of grain, to gain information as to their relative productiveness and usefulness, are much more reliable as a guide to the selection of the best sorts when the average experience of several years can be given. For the last three years a similar series of test plots to those reported in this bulletin have been conducted under conditions as nearly uniform as it has been possible to secure. The averages of the crops obtained are herewith presented.

### **AVERAGE CROPS**

## OATS

The twelve varieties of oats which have averaged the heaviest crops at the experimental farms of Western Canada during the past three years are the following :

### Experimental Farm for Manitoba

	Per Acre.	
	bu.	lbs.
Banner.....	86	16
Early Golden Prolific .....	86	6
American Beauty .....	85	20
Holstein Prolific.....	77	25
Golden Giant.....	77	15
White Schonen.....	73	1
Golden Beauty.....	72	22
Rosedale.....	71	26
Bavarian .....	69	24
Improved Ligowo.....	69	4
Joanette.....	69	4
Columbus .....	68	11

An average yield of 75 bushels 20 lbs. per acre.

### Experimental Farm for the N. W. Territories

	Per Acre.	
	bu.	lbs.
Columbus .....	92	19
Holstein Prolific.....	91	3
American Beauty.....	89	1
Abundance .....	86	33
White Schonen .....	85	13
Golden Beauty.....	85	3
Improved Ligowo .....	84	29
Wide Awake.....	83	21
Early Archangel.....	83	14
Early Golden Prolific.....	83	8
Abyssinia.....	81	16
American Triumph.....	80	27

An average yield of 85 bushels 23 lbs. per acre.

## TWO-ROWED BARLEY

The six varieties of two-rowed barley which have averaged the heaviest crops during the past three years are the following :

### Experimental Farm for Manitoba

	Per Acre.	
	bu.	lbs.
French Chevalier .....	48	46
Sidney .....	48	9
Newton.....	42	1
Thanet.....	40	27
Canadian Thorpe .....	38	6
Beaver .....	37	47

An average yield of 42 bushels 31 lbs. per acre.



### Experimental Farm for the N. W. Territories

	Per Acre.	
	bu.	lbs.
French Chevalier .....	60	23
Beaver .....	57	3
Canadian Thorpe. ....	56	4
Danish Chevalier .....	55	47
Newton .....	55	46
Prize Prolific .....	53	33

An average yield of 56 bushels 26 lbs. per acre for all varieties named.

### SIX-ROWED BARLEY

The six varieties of six-rowed barley which have averaged the heaviest crops during the past three years are :

#### Experimental Farm for Manitoba

	Per Acre.	
	bu.	lbs.
Mensury.....	54	11
Common .....	53	43
Trooper .....	52	21
Nugent.....	51	32
Surprise.....	47	31
Summit .....	46	15

An average yield of 51 bushels 1 lb. per acre.

#### Experimental Farm for the N. W. Territories

	Per Acre.	
	bu.	lbs.
Rennie's Improved.....	61	45
Odessa.....	51	35
Mensury.....	60	40
Common .....	60	23
Oderbruch .....	58	36
Trooper .....	57	1

An average yield of 60 bushels 6 lbs. per acre.

### WHEAT

The twelve varieties of spring wheat which have averaged the heaviest crops during the past three years are the following :

#### Experimental Farm for Manitoba

	Per Acre.	
	bu.	lbs.
White Fyfe.....	38	47
Preston (2 years only).....	37	65
Red Fyfe.....	37	
Rio Grande.....	35	57
Goose .....	35	43
Pringle's Champlain .....	35	37
Advance .....	34	53
Crown.....	34	30
Monarch .....	34	20
White Connell.....	34	10
Old Red River.....	33	47
White Russian.....	32	50

An average yield of 35 bushels 28 lbs. per acre.

### Experimental Farm for the N. W. Territories

	Per Acre.	
	bu.	lbs.
Huron.....	44	20
Beaudry.....	43	37
Emporium.....	43	7
Red Fern.....	41	27
Red Fyfe.....	41	23
Pringle's Champlain .....	41	23
Alpha.....	41	13
Preston .....	41	10
Rideau .....	40	53
Wellman's Fyfe.....	40	50
Crown .....	40	43
Herisson Bearded.....	40	40

An average yield of 41 bushels 41 lbs. per acre.

### POTATOES

The twelve varieties of potatoes which have averaged the heaviest crops during the past three years are the following :

#### Experimental Farm for Manitoba

	Per Acre.	
	bu.	lbs.
Pearce's Extra Early.....	383	47
Everett.....	363	
Early Norther .....	360	33
Pride of the Market.....	351	47
Clarke's No. 1.....	344	40
Late Puritan.....	343	27
Carman No. 1.....	338	33
Great Divide.....	337	20
Polaris .....	333	40
Early Puritan.....	332	27
Lizzie's Pride.....	323	53
Early White Prize .....	312	57

An average yield of 343 bushels 50 lbs. per acre.

#### Experimental Farm for the N. W. Territories

	Per Acre.	
	bu.	lbs.
Lee's Favorite .....	350	36
Northern Spy.....	339	
Lizzie's Pride.....	325	48
Early White Prize .....	307	28
White Beauty .....	298	24
American Wonder .....	293	20
State of Maine.....	291	52
Brownell's Winner.....	283	52
Empire State.....	283	36
Early Gem .....	280	48
Clarke's No. 1 .....	280	44
Late Puritan.....	267	36

An average yield of 300 bushels 15 lbs. per acre.

The foregoing tables are compiled from the report of the Experimental Stations, and the figures given may be accepted as strictly correct, and their bona fides assured by the Government of Canada. The figures show the results for three years, and it is not too much to say that no other country in the world can show averages approaching the yield of wheat, oats, barley and potatoes.

Wild fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries, saskatoons, black currants, gooseberries, grapes, plums, cherries and cranberries, grow in abundance. In cultivated fruits there are strawberries, raspberries, currants, gooseberries and crab apples. While the standard varieties are brought to a reasonable degree of perfection in some districts, crab apples are grown with considerable success, while the smaller fruits are grown even more successfully than in many parts of the east, and in point of flavor they are greatly superior.

### FRUITS

The question of dairying is being looked upon as specially important and has been dealt with in another pamphlet. It may, however, be remarked here that this industry has made very rapid strides in Western Canada during the past few years, and that it has proved a success is evidenced by the fact that the butter manufactured in the creameries last year which found its way into the eastern and English markets was found to be of very excellent quality and equal to, and in some cases superior to, its competitors.

### DAIRYING

The old adage and advice, not to put all the eggs in one basket, applies to farming in Western Canada as well as elsewhere, and the farmer who not only raises wheat, but grows other grains, and has around him his herds of cattle, hogs, sheep and poultry, is as near the achievement of success as it is possible to get. Horses and cattle thrive remarkably well on the prairie farms of Western Canada, and in proportion to the number kept there is probably more high-class stock there than in any other part of America. Some most valuable stallions are to be found there, very many of which are direct importations from Europe. Cattle in increasing numbers are to be

### MIXED FARMING

met with all over the prairie. Almost every class of fine-bred cattle is to be seen, among which may be mentioned Shorthorns, Galloways, Herefords, Jerseys and Holsteins. The export of beef cattle is very large, but owing to the demand in the mining districts of British Columbia and the Yukon there is a splendid home market. Usually cattle are fed on the wild prairie hay, which in most parts grows in great abundance. It is generally acknowledged that both cattle and horses prefer and thrive better on wild prairie grass than on cultivated varieties. The quality of the beef is the richest, and under the circumstances the cost of production is reduced to a minimum. Not infrequently an animal whose total cost did not exceed more than a few dollars realizes from \$30.00 to \$50.00. In many sections of the country, where there is a considerable quantity of wood, cattle, and sometimes horses, are kept out of doors all winter. In fact, in some parts of Assiniboia and Alberta, cattle are prepared for market that have never seen the inside of a stable. On most Manitoba farms they are stabled from about the middle or end of November to the middle or end of March. In some instances they are turned out and allowed to run in the yards and "rustle" round the straw stacks.

In many parts of Western Canada there are large sheep ranches, it having been found that this country is peculiarly adapted to sheep raising. In other cases the business is gone into in a less pretentious way, but in either case it is very remunerative. The demand for wool has been increased by the establishment of woollen factories, and there is also a large quantity exported.

#### **SHEEP**

The export trade in hogs is increasing year by year, and they come next in importance to cattle with the farmer as a source of revenue. There are packing houses at different points, which create a local demand, in addition to which there is the demand from the mining districts and the lumber camps.

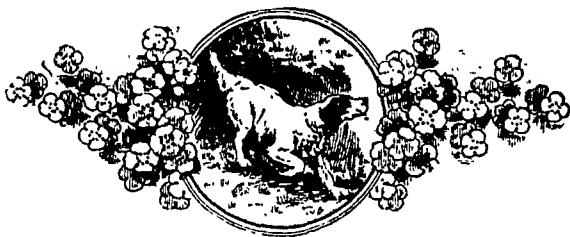
#### **HOGS**

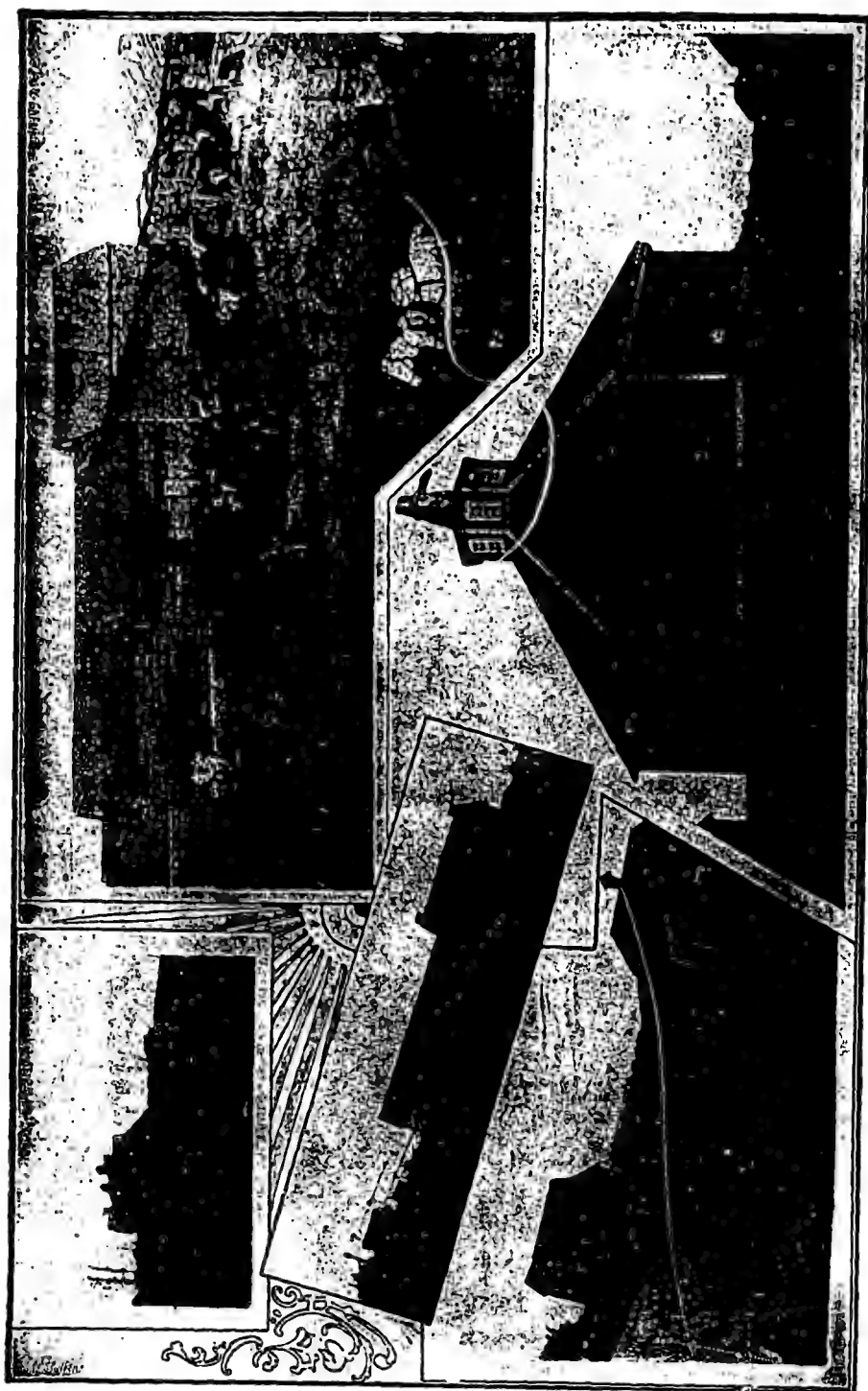
Poultry is a most profitable industry, but up to the present the local demand has been so great that it has absorbed the supply, and it has been found necessary to bring in large quantities from the east. It is expected that this will shortly rectify itself, and that there will be raised not only sufficient to meet the local demand, but that there will be a considerable quantity for export.

#### **POULTRY**

The Dominion Government has established experimental farms at Ottawa, Ontario; Brandon, Manitoba; Indian Head, Assiniboia; and Agassiz, British Columbia, at which places tests are made of seeds, grains, grasses, roots, trees, fruits and soils. These institutions have in the past proved of immense value to the farmers of the country. Feeding stock is fully reported, the results of which have been of great value to the stock-raisers of Western Canada.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL FARMS**





Typical Western Barns and Barnyards

# Those Who Will Succeed



THE first great demand is for persons with some capital at their disposal. For this class Western Canada affords unlimited openings. They can engage in agricultural pursuits, taking up free grant lands, or purchasing the improved farms to be found in advantageous positions in every province; or in mining; or in the manufacturing industries; or, if possessed of a settled income, living will be found to be much cheaper in Canada, with the benefits of a fine, healthy climate, magnificent scenery, abundant opportunities for sport, and facilities for education and placing children in life not to be excelled anywhere.

Persons of small capital and knowledge of agriculture often desire to enter upon farming pursuits. Before this is done experience should be acquired, either

## AGRICULTURISTS

by hiring oneself out as a laborer, or gaining experience in some other way. Then, when the necessary knowledge has been obtained, a farm may either be rented, purchased,

or taken up as a free grant.

Clerks, shop assistants, and persons desiring such situations, are advised not to emigrate unless proceeding to appointments already secured or to join friends.

## CLERKS, DRAUGHTSMEN TELEGRAPHISTS, SHOP ASSISTANTS, ETC.

Any demand for labor of these kinds is fully met on the spot. Encouragement is not held out to professional men, especially in cases where immediate employment is desired. There are always openings

and opportunities for men of exceptional abilities with a little capital, but, generally speaking, the local supply of men is equal to the demand.

An English gentleman, who had had considerable experience in farming in Western Canada, and had been quite successful, was asked what class of people he would recommend to make it their home. He said :

“For the young man with no ties, who has the means to live without recourse to work, and who is seeking a pleasant time, combining sport and amusement with the employment that working a small farm will give, there is no place that I know of where he can so easily secure it. Of course, I am not offering an opinion as to his probable success as an agriculturist, but I have cases in my mind where such people have realized fair returns from their investments on a farm. Success, however, will certainly follow the movements of the farm laborer of England who takes up a farm in Western Canada. As a rule he is frugal and careful, a thorough son of the soil, and, being able to give his undivided attention to his farm, which he can homestead or secure reasonably, he is soon able to see his finances develop and his prospects continue to grow brighter. If he chooses, and his abilities fit him for it, it is not long before he may occupy any of the public positions in the gift of the people. In fact, he is as good as any of his fellows. To the man with some means, and with a family growing up around him, making it necessary for him to husband his

resources, there is no simpler solution than that of taking up a farm in Western Canada. If he does not choose to take up a homestead, making it necessary to pioneer, he can buy his farm, stock it well, and immediately secure a return on his investment, and it will not be long before he will begin to realize that he is adding to his means."

The question is often asked in the old country if it is essential for young men wishing to take up farms in Canada, but desiring before doing so to acquire

**YOUNG MEN  
DESIRING  
AGRICULTURAL  
EXPERIENCE**

knowledge of agriculture, to pay premiums, either to persons in the old country or in the Dominion, for that purpose. It may therefore be plainly stated that "no premiums are necessary"; and it is advised that none be paid. Strong and healthy young men, from 18 to 21 years of age, who are prepared to accept for a time the hard work and surroundings more or less inseparable from a farm laborer's life, have no difficulty in getting employment in the spring; and the agents of the Government in Canada will assist them as far as possible in doing so, without charge, although, of course, without accepting any direct responsibility. Being without experience, they will not get much wages at the commencement of their employment, but as they acquire skill they will be able to command remuneration in proportion to the value of their work.

Great care should be exercised in deciding whether the young men are suited to the life that is proposed. Hard work is necessary, and very often their mode of living may be entirely altered. They must bear in mind two things—that they must do what they are told, and that they must pick up their knowledge from experience. Many persons have gone out in this way with good results, but there are others who have failed because they have not properly understood colonial life, or were unfitted for it. The advice of one of the Government agents should be obtained before a final decision is arrived at.

There is a large and growing demand for male and female farm servants in every part of the Dominion, owing to the rapidity with which land is being brought under cultivation. Machinery of various kinds is in daily use, but labor is very scarce notwithstanding, and good hands can always find constant and remunerative employment. Many persons of this class, who started as laborers, now have farms of their own in some of the finest parts of the Dominion.

Market gardeners, gardeners, and persons understanding the care of horses, cattle and sheep, may also be advised to go out.

In every city, town and village, female domestic servants can readily find employment. The wages are good, the conditions of service not irksome, and comfortable homes are assured. Domestic servants should go at once on their arrival to the nearest Government agent. These gentlemen will give the best and most reliable advice gratis; they often have in their offices a list of vacant situations, and will refer applicants to the local ladies' committee, so that they may have the benefit of such supervision and guidance until they are satisfactorily placed. Servants should, however, take their credentials with them, and bear in mind that good records are just as indispensable in Canada as elsewhere. They may safely go out at any time of the year and be certain of obtaining a situation at once, but should remember always to have funds enough in hand on landing to take them to the places in the interior where their services are required.

**DOMESTIC SERVICE  
AND OTHER  
CALLINGS FOR  
FEMALES**

There is little or no demand for females other than domestic servants. Governesses, shop assistants, nurses, etc., should not go out, unless proceeding to join friends who will be able to help them in getting employment.

Generally speaking, the best time to emigrate for all classes, is the early spring. The agricultural laborer will then find his services in demand in the busy period that always comes during seed time; and the agriculturist

### THE TIME TO EMIGRATE

who intends to take up land for himself will arrive at the beginning of the season's operations. The agriculturist may, by getting in a crop of oats or potatoes during the month of May or the first week in June, contribute greatly to the support of himself and family during the first year. Or again, if the agricultural laborer arrives in summer, about harvest time, he will find great demand and high wages for his services during the harvest months, and he will have no difficulty in getting on well from this point. The farmer, too, who desires to take up land, if he comes in the summer time may see the crops growing, and may thus have an opportunity to choose



#### Stock Ranch, Deloraine

at leisure the most advantageous location. The summer and autumn months are the best for moving about the country in search of land—or, as it is commonly called, "land hunting"—for a suitable spot on which to settle. Having selected it, he may proceed to erect his house and make preparations for living over the winter; and, if he means to do this, he may make his start with great advantage in the spring from being on the spot.

No person other than domestic servants are advised to go to Canada during the winter, unless proceeding to join friends, as work is not so readily procurable by new arrivals during that season as at other times of the year.

Many of the household necessities which the emigrant possesses he might do well to bring, and they may prove very useful; but still it is advisable to consider well the weight and bulk, and how far it is worth

### WHAT TO BRING

while. Articles of household furniture, crockery, stoves, or heavy articles of hardware should be left behind or sold, except in some circumstances for special reasons which the colonist will consider. It must be borne in mind that such articles are very liable to breakage, especially on long railway journeys to the west.



Agricultural laborers should not bring any of their tools with them, as these can be easily got in Canada, of the best kinds, and suited to the needs of the country. Generally speaking, the farming tools used in England would not be suitable for Canada.

Mechanics and artisans, when they have been encouraged to come out, may of course bring their tools; but they must bear in mind that there is no difficulty in buying any ordinary tools in Canada at reasonable prices, and that it is better to have the means of purchasing what they want after reaching their destination than to be hampered with a heavy lot of luggage on their journey, causing them trouble and expense.

In the case of settlers from the United States they can secure a car at very low rates, or a car can be hired by one or more settlers, in which case it is better to take along your stock, if you own them; but do not buy, as stock of all kinds can be had at reasonable prices, and they can be purchased on arrival. Machinery unsuited to farming in Western Canada should not be brought, but the settler should first of all bring his bedding and clothing.

It is difficult to lay down a hard and fast rule as to the amount of capital necessary to start farming. The answer depends upon the energy, experience, judgment and enterprise of the person concerned, the **CAPITAL REQUIRED** province selected, whether free grant land is to be taken up or an improved farm rented or purchased, and many other details. It may safely be said, however, that if a man has about £100, or \$500, clear on reaching the country, he is in a position to make a fair beginning on free grant land, though not on a large scale. It should be remembered, however, that numbers of prosperous men have begun life on the prairie with scarcely enough to take them there. They have, in many cases, made their way by working as hired men at seeding and harvesting time, while during other months of the year they performed the statutory and necessary work on the free homesteads they acquired from the Government. Many of the most successful have been farm laborers in the old country. Some capital is, of course, necessary if an improved farm is to be taken.

It is sometimes a decided advantage to rent a farm, and in many of the older-settled districts of Western Canada farms can be rented from one to two years. By doing this the newly arrived settler is able to take plenty **TO RENT A FARM** of time for selecting land of his own. The rental is never very high, and in some cases the owner will let the farm on shares, furnishing some of the necessary implements, stock, etc. It is during the winter and early spring that these farms are let, and the new comer should be on the ground some little time before the spring opens up.

If he has but little means and desires to rent the first year, he can get properties to suit him with or without teams, implements and seed, with the owner ready to assist him. As teams and implements can be bought on liberal time by paying from a quarter to a third down, as land can be got anywhere by giving a portion of the crop as first payment, and as seed can be got on time by giving a mortgage on the crop, a start can easily be made with little means; but to succeed under such circumstances a good crop and fair prices with great economy in the settler must follow. Other methods of settling are open to the emigrant, but these are most commonly adopted. In all cases it is very advantageous to the settler to commence with a couple of milch cows, some pigs and poultry, as they are very easily kept through summer and winter, and are a great help towards keeping the family while crops are growing. As it is shown in another section, the settler should also see to it that in addition to his wheat crop he should put in plenty of roots and vegetables for his own use, if not for sale. They grow with but little labor, and are a great assistance in housekeeping.

## The Hour of Canada's Destiny Has Struck

**The March of Progress is Most Marked  
and the Civilized World is Watching it**



N American writer, hitherto referred to in these pages, in a contribution to the New England Magazine, says :—" For "Canada the hour of destiny has struck. She has the "physical basis for an empire; and the stream of im- "migration which has now begun will swell into a "mighty movement of population like that by which "our central west was occupied, until her fertile lands "shall be the homes of millions of prosperous people. "Thus far American immigrants are largely in excess of "those from other lands, outside the British groups, and "American thought will have a mighty influence in "moulding the character of the coming commonwealths "of Western Canada. The English speaking immigrants "outnumber many fold all those of other tongues; and "thus it is made sure that both the great Republic and "the nascent nation adjoining will be loyal to the idea "of constitutional liberty, and, standing side by side, "will work together to advance that Anglo-Saxon "civilization which seems destined to dominate the "world."

### Customs

#### Free Entries

The following is an extract from the Customs tariff of Canada, specifying the articles that can be so entered :-

Settlers' Effects, viz. : Wearing apparel, household furniture, books, imple-  
ments and tools of trade, occupation or employment, guns, musical instruments,  
domestic sewing machines, typewriters, live stock, bicycles, carts and other vehicles  
and agricultural implements in use by the settler for at least six months before his  
removal to Canada; not to include machinery, or articles imported for use in any  
manufacturing establishment, or for sale; also books, pictures, family plate or  
furniture, personal effects and heirlooms left by bequest; provided, that any dutiable  
articles entered as settlers' effects may not be so entered unless brought with the  
settler on his first arrival, and shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of without  
payment of duty until after twelve months' actual use in Canada; provided also,  
that under regulations made by the Controller of Customs, live stock, when imported  
into Manitoba or the Northwest Territories by intending settlers, shall be free until  
otherwise ordered by the Governor in Council.

Settlers arriving from the United States are allowed to enter duty free stock in  
the following proportions: One animal of neat stock or horses for each ten acres of  
land purchased or otherwise secured under homestead entry, up to 160 acres; and  
one sheep for each acre so secured. Customs duties paid on animals brought in excess



Manitoba Rural Scenes

of this proportion will be refunded for the number applicable to an additional holding of 160 acres, when taken up.

The settler will be required to fill up a form (which will be supplied him by the customs officer on application) giving description, value, etc., of the goods and articles he wishes to be allowed to bring in free of duty. He will also be required to take the following oath :—

I, ....., do hereby solemnly make oath and say, that all the goods and articles hereinbefore mentioned are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, entitled to free entry as settlers' effects, under the tariff of duties of customs now in force, and that all of them have been owned and in actual use by myself for at least six months before removal to Canada; and that none of the goods or articles shown in this entry have been imported as merchandise or for any use in manufacturing establishment, or for sale, and that I intend becoming a permanent settler within the Dominion of Canada.

Sworn before me at.....day of.....189..

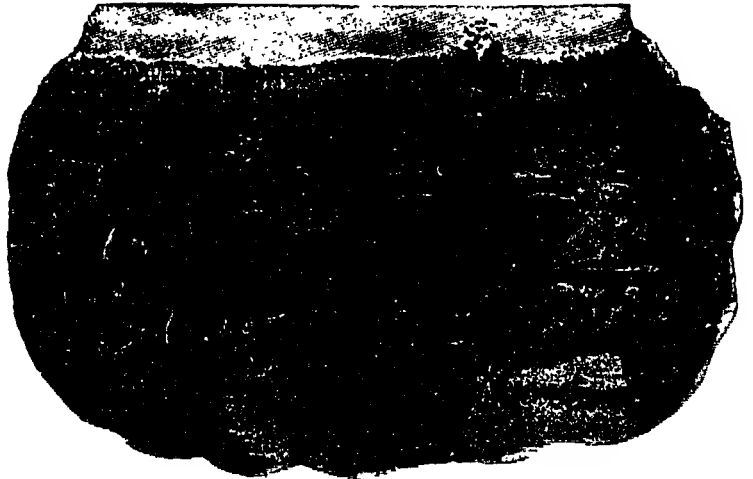
The following oath shall be made by intending settlers when importing live stock into Manitoba or the Northwest Territories free of duty :—

I, ....., do solemnly swear that I am now moving into Manitoba (or the Northwest Territories) with the intention of becoming a settler therein, and that the live stock enumerated and described in the entry hereunto attached is intended for my own use on the farm which I am about to occupy (or cultivate), and not for sale or speculative purposes, nor for the use of any other person or persons whomsoever.

Settlers' cattle, when accompanied by certificates of health, to be admitted without detention; when not so accompanied, they must be inspected. Inspectors may subject any cattle showing symptoms of tuberculosis to the tuberculin test before allowing them to enter. Any cattle found tuberculous to be returned to the United States or killed without indemnity. Sheep, for breeding and feeding purposes, may be admitted subject to inspection

#### QUARANTINE OF SETTLERS' CATTLE

at port of entry, and must be accompanied by a certificate, signed by a government inspector, that sheep scab has not existed in the district in which they have been fed for six months preceding the date of importation. If disease is discovered to exist in them, they may be returned or slaughtered. Swine may be admitted, when forming part of settlers' effects, when accompanied by a certificate that swine plague or hog cholera has not existed in the district whence they came for six months preceding the date of shipment; when not accompanied by such certificate, they must be subject to inspection at port of entry. If found diseased, to be slaughtered, without compensation.



A.—Carload of Settlers' Effects within the meaning of this tariff, may be made up of the following described property for the benefit of actual settlers, viz.:

<b>FREIGHT</b>	Live stock, any number up to but not exceeding ten (10)
<b>REGULATIONS</b>	head, all told, viz.: horses, mules, cattle, calves, sheep,
<b>ON THE</b>	hogs; household goods and personal property (second-
<b>RAILWAY</b>	hand); wagons, or other vehicles for personal use (second-

hand); farm machinery, implements and tools (all second-hand); lumber and shingles, which must not exceed 2,500 feet in all or the equivalent thereof; or in lieu of, not in addition to, the lumber and shingles a portable house may be shipped; seed grain; small quantity of trees or scrubbery; small lot live poultry or pet animals; and sufficient feed for the live stock while on the journey.

B.—Less than carloads will be understood to mean only household goods (second-hand); wagons, or other vehicles, for personal use (second-hand); and second-hand farm machinery, implements and tools. Less than carload lots should be plainly addressed.

C.—Merchandise, such as groceries, provisions, hardware, etc., also implements, machinery, vehicles, etc., if new, will not be regarded as settlers' effects, and if shipped, will be charged the company's regular classified tariff rates.

D.—Should the allotted number of live stock be exceeded, the additional animals will be taken at the ordinary classified rates, over and above the carload rates for the settlers' effects, but the total charge for any one such car will not exceed the regular rate for a straight carload of live stock. (These ordinary tariff rates will be furnished by station agents on application.)

E.—Passes.—One man will be passed free in charge of live stock, when forming parts of carloads, to feed, water, and care for them in transit. Agents will use the usual form of live stock contract.

F.—Top Loads.—Settlers are not permitted, under any circumstances, to load any article on the top of box or stock cars; such manner of loading is dangerous, and is absolutely forbidden.

G.—Carloads will not be stopped at any point short of destination for the purpose of unloading part. The entire carload must go through to the station to which originally consigned.

H.—Carload Rates.—The rates shown in the column headed "Carloads," apply on any shipment occupying a car, and weighing 24,000 pounds (12 tons) or less. If the carloads weigh over 24,000 pounds, the additional weight will be charged for at proportionate rates. (Example: \$205 "per car" is equivalent to 85½ cents per hundred pounds, at which rate the additional weight would be charged.)



## General Remarks

It is not the purpose here to deal more than briefly with the different Provinces that comprise Western Canada. The general conditions are so similar that they have been dealt with in previous articles, and need not again be referred to. The pages devoted to each of these Provinces and Districts will refer specially to those conditions that are peculiar to individual cases.

The advance of settlement was from the east to the west, and the Province of Manitoba was, therefore, the first to feel its effects. It was the first to demonstrate to the world that in those vast prairies, with their illimitable distances, over whose bosoms countless millions of buffalo roamed at their own sweet will, dallying in the luxuriance of the rich and fattening grasses, through which they waded breast high, was to be found the solution of the world's bread supply for future generations. It is not a quarter of a century ago that in many parts of this Province, which is credited with exporting as high as 60,000,000 bushels of wheat, there might have been seen bands of Indians and half-breeds in full chase after great herds of buffalo, mounted on their wiry and sinewy ponies. Exciting events transpired in those days. The entire band took part in the chase, the Indian and the half-breed following and riding through the maddened and frightened herds, and in the most ruthless and regardless manner slaughtering all that came within range of their unerring aim. The women and children, with the trains of squeaking "Red River carts," the camp equipage, and such tools as were necessary, were close in the rear, skinning the carcasses and cutting off such portions as were thought necessary, the remainder being left for the coyote, the fox and the vulture to devour.

To-day these plains are dotted with the bleached bones of this now almost extinct race of animals, the buffalo, and that is nearly all that is left to remind one that the country was not always the great agricultural country it is to-day.



Showing Whitewater Lake in the Distance



R. F. Roddick's Farm, Brandon Hills, Manitoba

## **"Westward the Star of Empire Takes Its Way"**

This saying never had a more fitting exemplification than in Manitoba. As large as England, Scotland and Ireland put together, with its 116,021 square miles, its 74,000,000 acres, with a population of over 200,000, settled there within the past few years, it has made marked progress. Its population is largely English-speaking, many from the United States having made their homes there, for reasons which are best set out in the testimony they offer. Mennonites, Icelanders, Scandinavians and Germans are also there. Some of these are in colonies, while others have preferred casting their lot with the English-speaking people.

As a rule, people with means, and those satisfied with the existing conditions, do not move; and it will, therefore, not be surprising to learn that most of those who have gone to Manitoba to settle were not accompanied by very large bank accounts. This is referred to so as to emphasize by contrast the condition in which most of them are found to-day. The farmer who has continued his farming operations for from six to ten years is in circumstances which many settlers in older countries were unable to reach after a life-time of toil. The laborer is happy and contented; he is only waiting for an opportunity to get a farm of his own and become as independent as his employer. With a farm free from debt; his fields of ripening grain ready for harvest; with herds of cattle on his pasture lands, and flocks of sheep feeding on the hillside; dairy and poultry providing the household with groceries and many other comforts; schools for his children in the immediate neighborhood; churches close at hand, and such other social advantages as he desires within easy reach—what more is required for a happy existence? And that is the condition of the average Manitoba farmer to-day. As a rule, he has had experience elsewhere; and if he is asked the question, the reply in almost every case will be, that he would not leave the country.

Comparatively nothing was known of the agricultural capabilities of the country before 1870, when it was detached from Rupert's Land ("The Great Lone Land"), under Hudson's Bay Company rule, and created a province by an Act of the Canadian Parliament. Previous to that time (1870) Manitoba was known only as a fur-bearing country, inhabited by Indians and half-breeds. At that time the population numbered about 10,000 souls, not more than 1,000 of whom were whites, and they, for the most part, employees of the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1881 the population had increased to 65,000, and at present it is about 275,000. When its wonderful capabilities are known to the thousands of people in the crowded portions of the old countries and the non-productive sections of the United States, the increase will be more rapid than ever.

**SNOW FALL** The average snow of Manitoba is 62. It is not a country of deep snows; in short, trains are rarely blocked and seldom delayed by winter storms.

Water and fuel are also very important considerations for the settler. The country is everywhere at easy distances intersected by creeks and rivers, and many lakes of varying dimensions exist, especially in the northern portion of the Province. Water can be secured almost anywhere by sinking wells of a moderate depth. Some of the creeks and rivers are well stocked with fish and wild fowl, affording amusement and supplying valuable articles of diet.

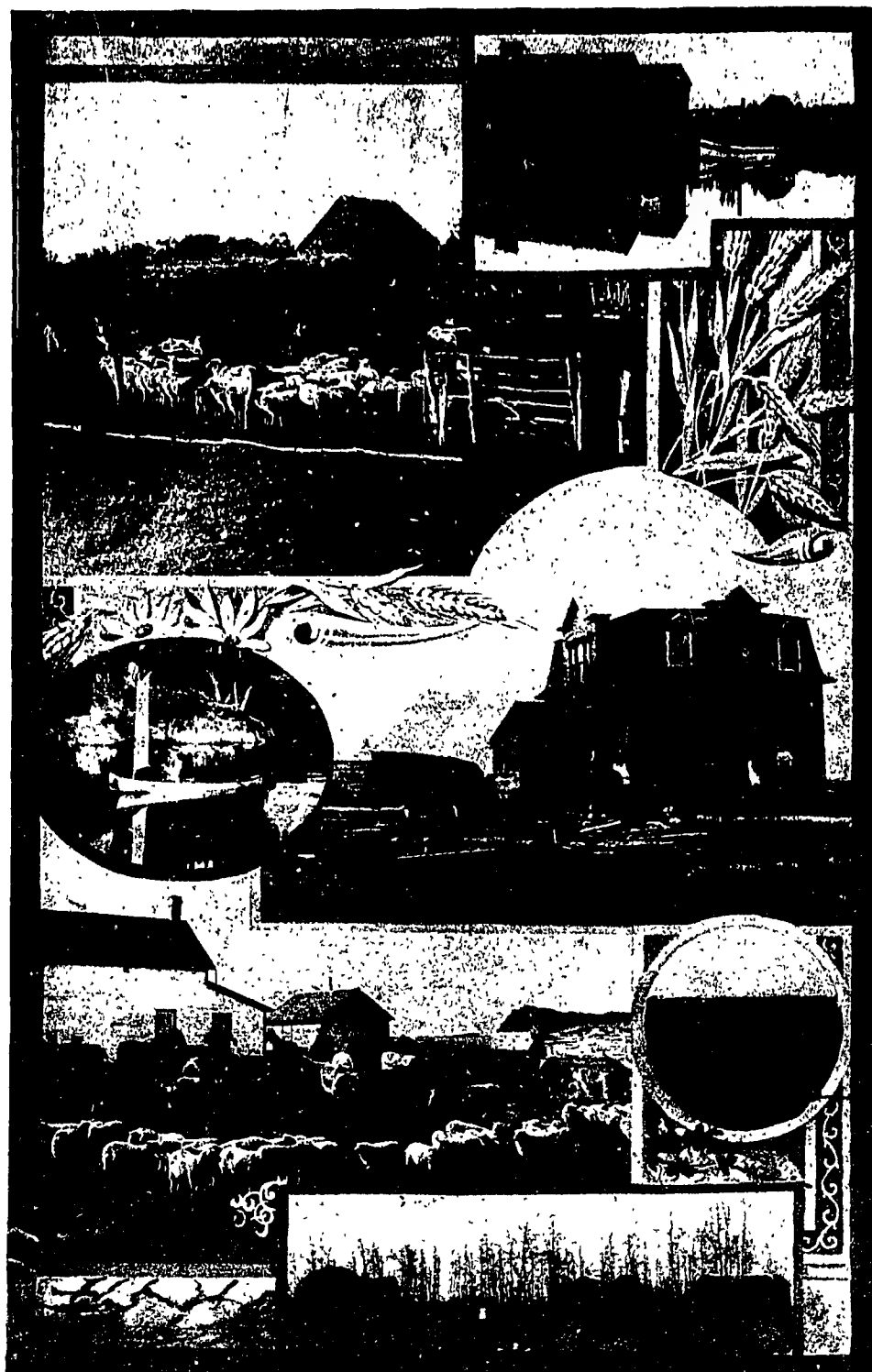


Lake of the Woods

Though it is but twenty-seven years since Manitoba was created a Province out of almost trackless prairie, railways now traverse all the settled parts of the Province, and bring within reach portions still open to settlement. Very few farmers are more than a dozen miles from a market or a railway, while thousands, of course, are within two or three miles of one. Railway stations occur at intervals of about seven or eight miles, and at these are postoffices and villages of more or less importance, with elevators for the storage of grain, facilities for the shipment of all farm products, and stores where anything required in ordinary life may be obtained.

**COMMERCIAL  
FACILITIES**





Pleasant Homes in the West

There is here, as in all other countries, a variety of soils, but what may be called the characteristic soil of Manitoba is a deep black argillaceous mould of loam, resting on a deep clay subsoil, which ranks among the very richest in the world. This, the most capable chemists say, is especially adapted to the growth of wheat, and practical every-day life fully verifies the statement. It is also very rich, and stands more cropping without manure than any other surface known to agriculturists. Usually, the snow disappears early in April, and seeding begins a week or two later, the soil drying very rapidly on the surface. The harvest begins about the middle of August.

## SOIL

The municipal statement\* for the Province during 1897 gives the following information, which shows how Manitoba has progressed:—

Population .....	108,957
Resident farmers .....	28,372
Acres in rural municipalities ..	13,051,375
Acres under cultivation ..	2,371,441
Acres wooded.....	840,385
Horses.....	92,762
Cattle.....	214,468
Sheep.....	32,986
Pigs.....	70,885
Assessment, real and personal .....	\$42,827,442.00
Total taxes imposed in 1897 for all purposes..	\$674,288.61
Yield of wheat.....	Bu. 18,261,950
Yield of oats .....	" 10,620,513
Yield of barley .....	" 3,183,602
Yield of flax.....	" 247,836
Yield of rye .....	" 48,344
Yield of peas.....	" 33,380
Grain crop.....	" 32,404,625
Yield of potatoes.....	" 2,033,298
Yield of roots .....	" 1,220,070
Cattle exported ..	31,500
Hogs exported.....	12,500
Hogs received by Winnipeg packers and butchers .....	25,000
Poultry disposed of by farmers:	
Turkeys.....	47,540
Geese and ducks.....	20,000
Chickens .....	184,055
Value of dairy products.....	\$450,213.43
Estimated expenditure on farm buildings, etc.	\$935,310.00
Rural school districts.....	811
Estimated school children, rural districts...	23,000

As wheat is, and always will be, the staple factor in this Province, it is thought advisable to publish a careful estimate, made by Mr. Bedford, the Superintendent of the Government Experimental Farm at Brandon, of the cost of growing an acre of wheat. He placed it at \$7.87. This is the result of an actual experiment on a yield of twenty-nine bushels. The items of cost are: Ploughing once, \$1.25; harrowing twice, 20 cents; cultivating twice, 40 cents; seed, 75 cents; drilling, 22 cents; binding, 33 cents; cord, 20 cents;

\*Incomplete and referring only to country parts.

stooking, 16 cents; stacking, 60 cents; threshing, \$1.46; teaming to market, four miles, 29 cents; two years' rent or interest on land valued at \$15 per acre, at six per cent., \$1.80; wear and tear of implements, 20 cents. A total of \$7.87.

A further illustration of the profits to be derived from this is scarcely necessary; but there are scores of cases where farmers have paid the entire purchase money of their farm from the product of the farm for that year, and in many cases have had money left with which to make a payment of an additional purchase of land.

Although the country is prairie, it is in striking contrast with some parts of western America. It is not one monotonous level expanse, with nothing to relieve the eye. It is everywhere more or less undulating, dotted

**TOPOGRAPHY** here and there with hills and valleys, very few of the former being rocky or barren, simply eminences affording good pasturage for all domestic animals.



Will Teskie's, Deloraine

Many people imagine that Manitoba is already "filled up," but this is not so. In the Red River Valley of Manitoba are, in round numbers, 2,800,000 acres, of which up to the present time only 550,000 have ever been cultivated.

#### **LANDS FOR SETTLEMENT**

Again, south of the main line of the C. P. R. to the boundary of North Dakota, west of the Red River Valley, are 4,600,000 acres, of which only 800,000 acres have been cultivated. To the north of the main line of the C. P. R., within reach of railroads, are another 4,600,000 acres, with only 500,000 acres cultivated. Here are millions of acres of the best land in the Northwest for sale on easy terms, at prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$5.00 per acre.



Cattle Market at Prince Albert - Cattle Arriving

Homesteads can still be obtained on the outskirts of present settlements to the east of the Red River, and between Lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba, as well as on the west of Lake Manitoba, and in the newly opened Lake

**HOMESTEADS** Dauphin District, through which railway communication with the great transcontinental system was established in 1896. These districts are specially adapted to mixed farming, having abundance of hay and water, and with timber near at hand for building purposes. The Province still affords a vast field for experienced farmers who can bring money with them to make the first improvements on land, to provide themselves with stock and implements, and to carry their families through the first year. Manitoba has room for thousands, with a sure road for them to comfort and prosperity. The early settlers of Manitoba were all of this class, bringing in carloads of stock and plenty of money to keep them a year. The cost of transportation to-day is not one half of what it was in the early 80's.

Any part of the Province that it is desired to visit will give sufficient evidence to satisfy all that those who have followed farming as a pursuit and given it anything

### THE PROSPERITY OF THE FARMER

like ordinary attention have made it a success. This not only applies to English-speaking people, and those who have hitherto been farmers, but to foreigners and to those who have gone into the country without any previous experience in farming. In 1884 180 families of Mennonites settled in the Morden district, having to borrow \$215,000 before they could begin operations. In 1891 they had repaid the whole of these loans with interest, and they are now quite free from debt and prosperous in every respect. They have now over 250,000 acres under cultivation and they own, besides their houses, barns, implements, etc., 12,000 horses, 6,000 cows, and 11,000 young cattle. The original 180 families have increased by immigration and natural increase to 2,960 families, numbering 20,000 souls. Thus each family averages in possessions nearly 80 acres under cultivation, more than four horses, nearly three cows, and about four young cattle, besides house, implements and land all paid for and owned in fee simple. Considering that at present prices the 80 acres would bring the average family gross receipts for crops alone to considerably over \$1,000, and besides that from their cows and young cattle, they would have additional revenue for butter and beef, it will not be denied that they furnish an example of prosperity acquired under all the disadvantages of beginning under debt that it would be hard to equal in any other country in the world.

The Mennonites have been instanced, not because they are by any means the only or even the most brilliant examples of what has been done by the settlers in the Morden district, but because from the statistics that have been gathered and are easily available, there is no difficulty in reducing the measure of their success to actual figures.

Where to locate, is a question that only can be decided by the individual himself. There is no part of the Province that has not inducements, and the best plan to pursue is to be guided by the advice of the agents of the Government, who will give you much valuable information and save you considerable trouble. If you desire to

### **WHERE TO LOCATE**

take up a free homestead it may be necessary to go some little distance from a settlement, but this would be but temporary, as the present rush of settlers is rapidly filling up the vacant lands, and this means that lines of railway will be projected and built as these districts become filled. In some of the older settled districts there are a few homesteads yet to be had.

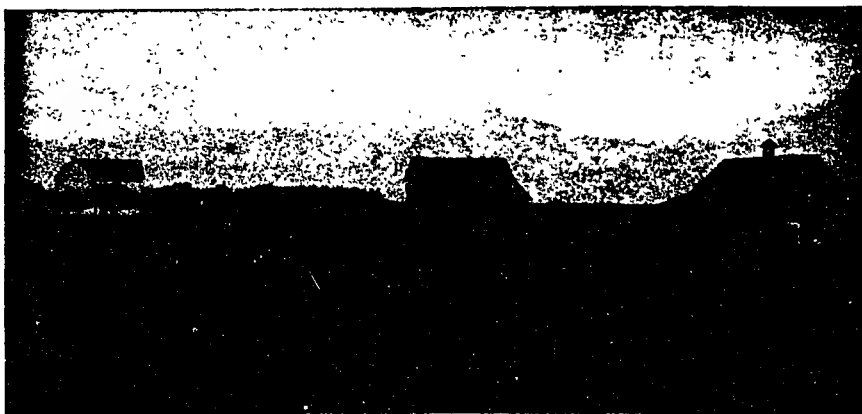
The different railway companies have lands to dispose of, and they can be purchased at reasonable prices, with a considerable length of time given for the payment, at six per cent interest. These lands are to be had in almost any district at prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$5.00 per acre, to be paid in ten equal annual instalments, particulars of which can be had on application to any of the agents of the different lines of railway, referred to in the previous part of this book. The Hudson's Bay Company also has lands to dispose of.

Nearly all points of the Province are reached by lines of railway, and the homeseeker afforded exceptional advantages that he may select land in the locality which may suit him best.

Winnipeg, the principal city of Manitoba, and, in fact, the metropolis of Western Canada, claims a population of about 40,000. It has all the modern conveniences, and may be said to be thoroughly "up-to-date." It has several miles of electric railway system, splendid streets, excellent stores, while almost every line of trade is represented by the wholesale houses. It is also

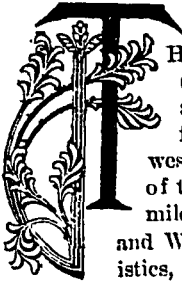
### **CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES**

the seat of Government. The city of Brandon comes next in importance, followed by the towns of Portage la Prairie, Morden, Carberry, Neepawa, Manitou, Dauphin, Minnedosa, Birtle, Emerson, Gretna, Wawanesa, Baldur, Souris, Deloraine, Melita, Virden, Rapid City, Hamiota, Gladstone and a number of others which are rapidly rising in prominence and importance owing to the stability that is given them by the agricultural districts with which they are surrounded. At all of these are elevators, mills, warehouses, etc., to accommodate the large quantities of wheat that are marketed. There are scores of towns yet to be developed along the lines of railway throughout Western Canada, so that new-comers will find openings in this direction if they so desire.



Mr. A. Turnbull's, Nine Miles South of Hartney, Manitoba

# Assiniboia



THE district of Assiniboia lies between the Province of Manitoba and the district of Alberta, extends north from the international boundary to the 52nd parallel of latitude, and contains an area of thirty-four million acres. It has a length of about 450 miles east and west by 205 miles north and south. Travelling westward on the lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the district is entered at a point 212 miles west of Winnipeg. It is divided into two great areas—Eastern and Western Assiniboia—each of which has its own peculiar characteristics, the former being essentially a wheat growing and mixed farming country, and the western part of the latter especially adapted for ranching.

In both minerals are found, and on the bars of the south branch of the Saskatchewan river, in Western Assiniboia, gold mining is profitably carried on.

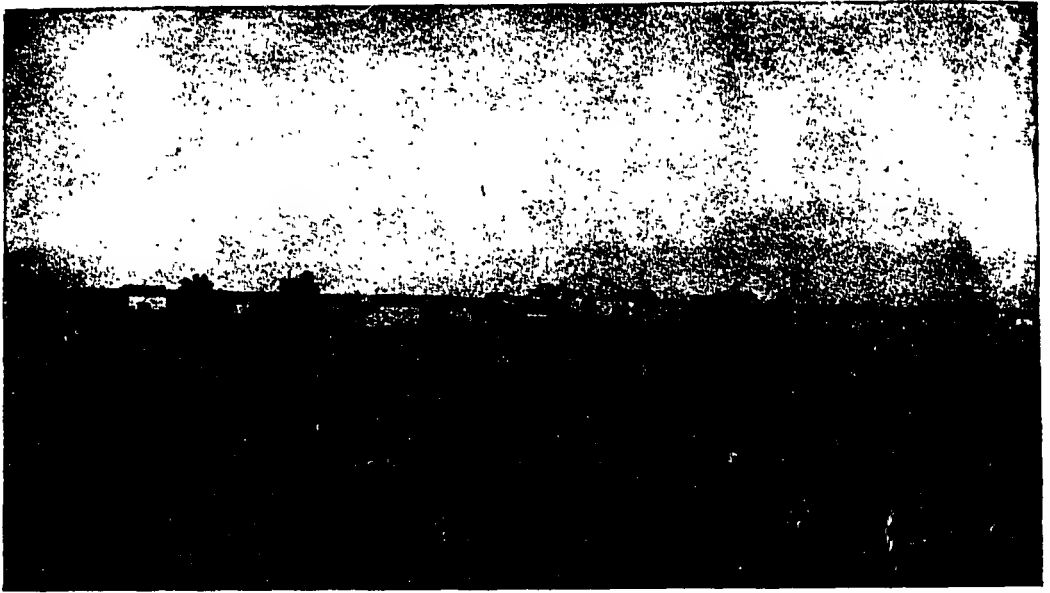
The eastern portion of Assiniboia, for a distance of some 120 miles west from its eastern boundary, is practically a continuation to the westward of the grain-growing areas of Manitoba, and although the soil is somewhat lighter than the deep black loam of the Red

## THE CENTRE OF THE WHEAT BELT

River valley, it is very warm and productive. Within this portion of the district settlement has rapidly extended, and many thriving towns have sprung up along the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, among which may be mentioned Moosomin, Grenfell, Wolesley, Indian Head and Qu'Appelle, and on the line of the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway, Saltcoats and Yorkton. This portion of the district shows the gradual change from the wooded areas of Manitoba to the great plains region of the Territories, and in many cases contains a park-like country, with alternate bluffs of poplar and willow, and open areas of prairie. The soil is a friable loam, easily worked and producing excellent crops of wheat, coarse grains and vegetables. The climate is cold in winter, with a considerable snowfall during the majority of years, both of which are requisite for the successful growing of the No. 1 hard wheat for which Western Canada is now noted. While the summers leave little to be desired in an agricultural country, cyclones or violent storms are, so far, unknown. In most parts of the district good water can be obtained at a reasonable depth.

This portion of the country is especially suitable for farming. Indeed, almost the entire population consists of farmers with small bunches of cattle and a few scores of acres of land under crop. Creameries are easily accessible and thus wheat growing, dairying and beef production, all on the same homestead, is a very common feature. There is a good market for all farm produce and as a rule the farmers are well to do. In most portions good water is obtainable at reasonable depth. At Indian Head larger wheat growing areas become common and the region of big grain fields is reached. Farming enterprise at this point has received a stimulus from the experimental farm established by the Dominion Government, the farmers around having availed themselves of the opportunity of learning much from watching the operations at such an excellent institution.

The main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway extends east to west almost through the centre of Assiniboia, and branch lines of this road extend from Moose



Shoal Lake

Jaw to the southeast corner of the district, and from Regina to the north through the central portion. The Manitoba and Northwestern Railway also extends into the northeastern portion of the district from Manitoba, and present requirements in the way of transportation are thus well provided for.

#### RAILWAYS

The South Saskatchewan River, one of the most important streams of the western territories, enters Assiniboia almost midway on its western boundary, and after flowing nearly due east for about two hundred miles, turns almost at a right angle to the north, leaving the district about the middle of its northern boundary. The

#### RIVERS

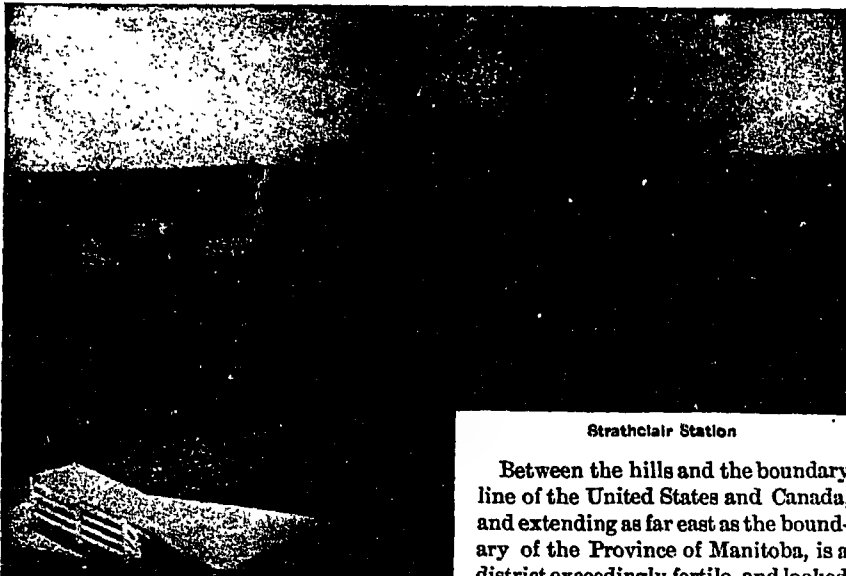
Qu'Appelle River, the Assiniboine and White Sand River, all fed by small streams and creeks, are to the north, and the Souris River, the Pipestone Creek, Long Creek and many minor streams to the south. The valleys along these rivers and creeks are specially adapted for mixed farming, and the open prairie beyond affords large areas for grazing. To the south is Moose Mountain, thirty miles in length from east to west and fifteen from north to south. In parts this area is thickly wooded and many local watercourses head there and run down to the surrounding plains. The pasture is luxuriant and profuse, while water in streams, small lakes and sloughs is abundant. The slopes of the mountain are dotted with farms, while the open plain at its base affords grazing for herds of cattle and flocks of sheep.

The general aspect of the country is rolling prairie, dotted over with clumps of trees, usually found bordering lakes, streams and meadows. In the hollows grow the heavy, luxuriant grasses where the farmer obtains his supply of winter hay. The principal grains grown are wheat and oats. The ordinary yield of wheat is from twenty to thirty bushels to the acre. All kinds of roots, too, are a sure crop. The soil is so rich that no fertilizers are necessary, so that in this direction a large amount of time and money is saved. Nowhere can farming be done more easily, and nowhere can the frugal, earnest and industrious man start on a smaller capital.

For agricultural purposes the districts of Moosomin and Qu'Appelle are wonderfully favored, lying as they do in the great stretch of the fertile belt. The Moosomin district is included in the country between the Manitoba boundary on the east, on the north by the lovely valley of the Qu'Appelle River, on the south by the

Pipestone Creek, a perfect paradise for cattle, and the second meridian on the west. The Qu'Appelle district is that section which lies immediately west of the Moosomin to the height of land at McLean Station on the C. P. R., round to the Beaver Hills, and south almost to the international boundary lines. Included in this area are the Pleasant Plains, no less fertile than the famous wheat-growing plains of Manitoba, where crops are phenomenally large. The soil is generally loam, covered with about twelve to eighteen inches of black vegetable mould, which after the second ploughing makes a fine seed bed, easy to work, and of a most productive nature. Generally speaking these remarks apply to all the eastern part of the district. The Beaver Hills and the Touchwood Hills in the northern part are especially well adapted for stock raising.

About the centre of the southern portion of this portion of Assiniboia, a marked topographical feature, known as Moose Mountain, occurs. This hill, or range of hills, which rises to a considerable elevation above the surrounding plains, is some thirty miles in length east and west and about fifteen miles north and south. Parts of the hills are thickly wooded, and many small local watercourses head therein and run down to the surrounding plains. The country along the base of these hills offers many favorable locations for mixed farming, and there is a considerable settlement in the vicinity, with a thriving village at the east end of the hills called Cannington Manor.



Strathclair Station

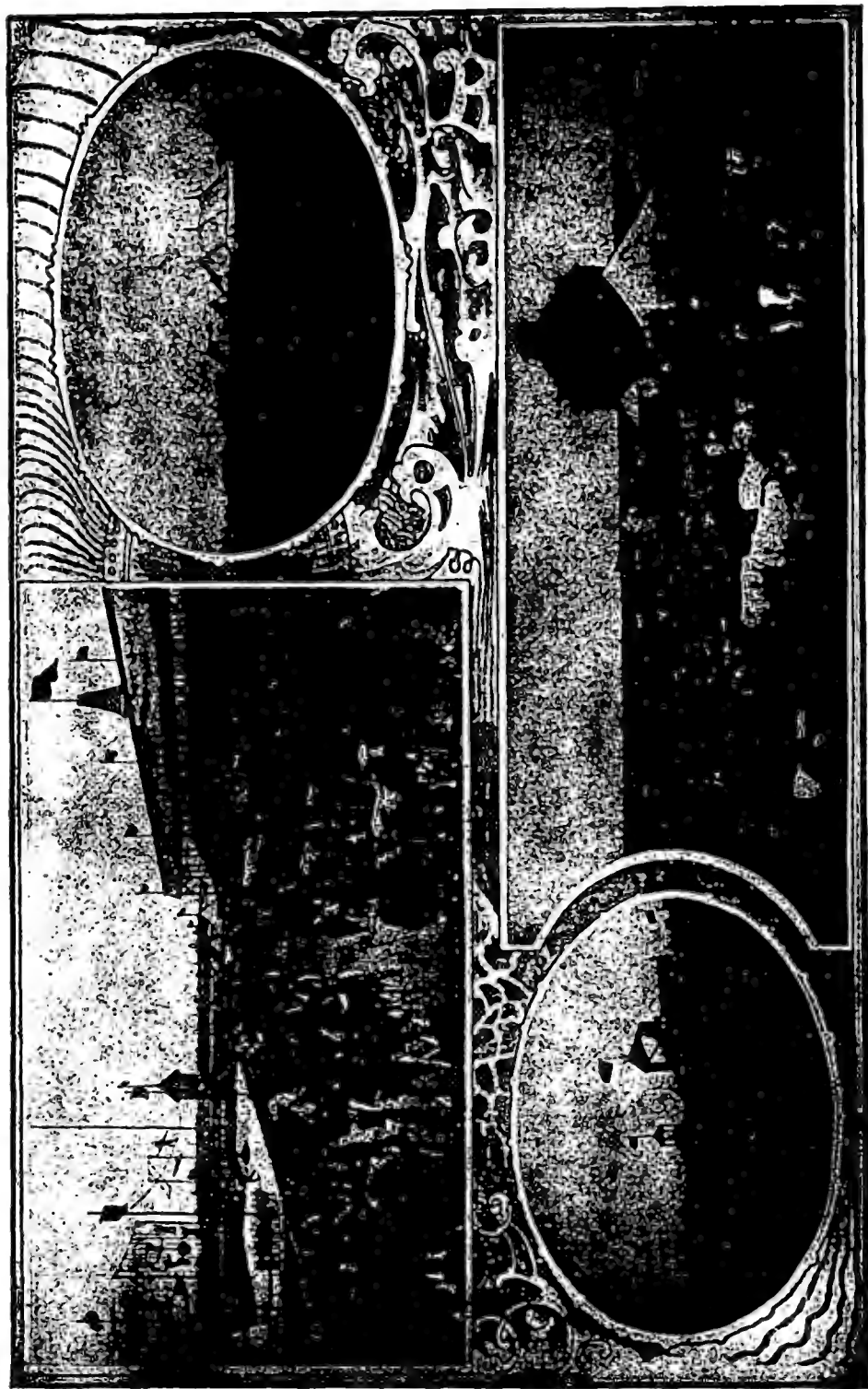
Between the hills and the boundary line of the United States and Canada, and extending as far east as the boundary of the Province of Manitoba, is a district exceedingly fertile, and looked upon as excellent for agriculture.

During the past two years a great number have made their homes there, and they have been very successful. Many of these were Germans, who, having lived for some years in Michigan, and failing to accomplish what they desired in the way of making a living, followed the advice of delegations sent to Western Canada, and now have comfortable homes in the Alameda district.

Coal in abundance is found in the south, in the district drained by the Souris River, and there is a direct rail connection northwest with the main line of the C. P. R., and eastwardly to points in Manitoba.

Eastern Assiniboia offers an opening to the poor man if he will work and exercise economy, for after a year or two of hard work he finds himself in possession





Western Exhibition Scenes

of a home, all his own, free from the harassing conditions of a rented or mortgaged farm.

This district, in conjunction with the Province of Manitoba, will one day be one of the greatest wheat producing sections of the American continent, for the following reasons:—1st—It has a soil particularly rich in the food of the wheat plant. 2nd—A climate under which the plant comes to maturity with great rapidity. 3rd—On account of its northern latitude it receives more sunshine during the period of growth than the country to the south. 4th—Absence of rust due to dryness of climate. 5th—Absence of insect foes.

These conditions are especially favorable to the growth of the hard, flinty wheat of Scotch Fyfe variety, that is so highly prized by millers all the world over, giving it a value of from 10c. to 25c. a bushel over the softer varieties grown in Europe and the older parts of Canada.

The great bulk of the wheat crop for 1897 reached the highest grade, No. 1 Hard.

The above remarks, written of Eastern Assiniboia, apply to a great extent to a large portion of West Assiniboia, which is entered at Maclean Station, and the first considerable town in which is Regina, the capital of the Northwest Territories. The land here is a rich, fertile loam, as well to the south as the north. Close to the C. P. R. track there is very little settlement, a circumstance that has sometimes led to the conclusion that the district is not favored with conditions for successful settling. This, however, is an error, and the plains without people are in this instance a proof of the value of the land for farming purposes, because its richness and fertility were recognised as soon as the official surveyors and topographers had issued their reports, and immediately capitalists and speculators bought every available acre, and still hold on to the land in confidence of a near future of high prices. Beyond the sections so held there is both to the north and the south abundant land for homesteading and for sale at reasonable prices.

There is wheat growing on a large scale all around here. In some of the settlements the smallest farms grow a hundred acres of wheat and many farmers approach nearly a thousand acres. Cottonwood, Forest, Carsdale, to the north, Camden and Coulee, to the south, are model settlements, and perhaps the best testimony to the character of the country that can be given is that those settlers that have been longest there are those who are almost yearly increasing their farms by buying more land, a quarter of a section at a time.

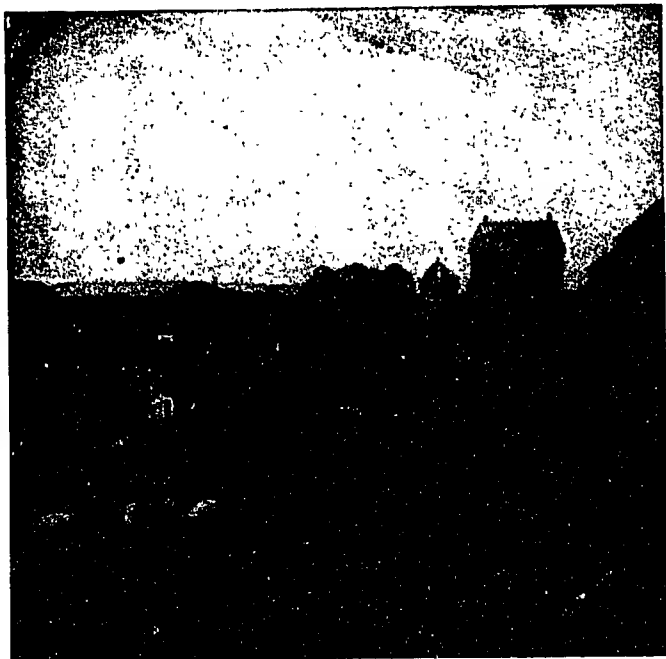
The same conditions and characteristics obtain as far as Moose Jaw, which is a divisional point on the Canadian Pacific Railway. West of this thriving town, however, there is a change in the character of the country. The humid districts are being left behind and the sub-arid portions approached. The prairie ceases to be suited to the plough, but affords first-class grazing for sheep and cattle. Very few farms are to be seen, and it is soon recognised that the ranching country has been reached. The majestic sweep of the prairie is hereabout broken by two ranges of hills which rise to a considerable height. One, Wood Mountain, is situated near the international boundary, and the settlement there, chiefly at Willow Bunch, is devoted entirely to the raising of cattle. There is timber, as well as water, and wild hay is always abundant. The other range of hills is known as Cypress Hills, about eighty miles long from east to west and twenty from north to south. In some places the elevation is 1,000 feet, and there are many ravines and coulees. The western portions of the hills are heavily wooded, including merchantable timber. This range forms the main watershed for this portion of the prairie region. There is a large rainfall on the summit, which finds its way to the plains by Swift Current Creek, Whitemud River, Battle Creek, Bear Creek, Maple Creek, McKay Creek and Ross Creek. In this part of the Northwest the winters are milder and the snowfall

is so light that cattle, horses and sheep graze outside the whole year. There is not much cropping, and then only where irrigation has been adopted by constructing cheap ditches. This method has proved very successful and owing to the absence of frosts even melons and tomatoes are widely grown.

From Swift Current Creek, the region is fully equal to the Bow River District in Alberta as a stock country. It is everywhere thickly covered with a good growth of nutritious grasses—the grass is usually the short, crisp variety, known as “buffalo grass,” which becomes to all appearances dry about midsummer, but is still green and growing at the roots, and forms excellent pasture both in winter and summer. It is amazing the rapidity with which poor, emaciated animals brought from the east get sleek and fat on the buffalo grass of the plains. The supply of timber on the hills is considerable. There is also an abundance of fuel of a different kind in the coal seams that are exposed in many of the valleys. Settlers in this section of the country have thus an abundant supply of timber suitable for house logs and

fencing, and both coal and wood for fuel. About Maple Creek irrigation works are being actively prosecuted, with most beneficial results.

The Cypress Hills, which may be dimly seen in the south from the railway, are especially adapted for stock raising, and as their elevation is sufficient to make general farming an uncertainty, the grass land that nature has so bountifully provided will not likely be disturbed by the plough, thus giving to the farmer on the plains adjoining never-failing hay meadows and unlimited pasture ground for his stock. The snow-fall is light, the climate is tempered by the Chinook winds, and water and shelter are everywhere abundant.



Simon Clarke, Roundthwaite

Great herds of range cattle roam at will all over these seemingly boundless pastures. The profits to the stockmen are large, as can be readily imagined, when it is shown that \$40 per head is paid for steers on these ranges, animals that cost their owners only the interest on the original investment incurred in stocking the ranch, and their share in the cost of the annual round-ups.

### 30,000 HEAD OF CATTLE

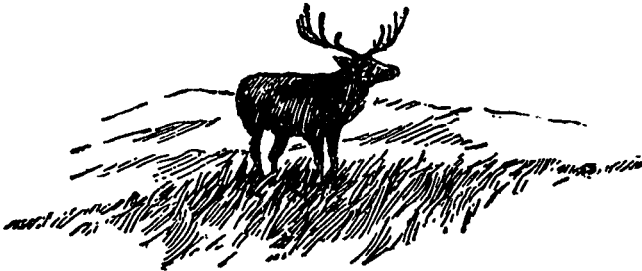
Parties in search of land for stock-raising are advised to examine the country south-west of Swift Current Station, along the Swift Current Creek, south and west of Gull Lake, south of Maple Creek, the Valley of Mackay Creek, that flows north from the hills and south of Irvine and Dunmore, where connection is again made with the Canadian Pacific Railway system.

The town of Medicine Hat, which is a divisional point on the railway, is situated a short distance northwest of the hills, on the South Saskatchewan River, near the western boundary of Assiniboia. During the year 1896 there were some 30,000 head of cattle grazing in the Cypress Hills district, and upwards of 60,000 sheep. These cattle and sheep are largely made up of bands owned by individual settlers, many of whom began a few years ago in a very small way.

This portion of Assiniboia offers splendid opportunities for intending settlers who desire to go in for pastoral pursuits and dairy farming, and numerous choice locations can be had. The natural grazing advantages enable him to own a large number of cattle, sheep or horses, which do not need any feed except for short intervals during exceptionally stormy weather in the winter months. The remaining portion of the plains region along the northern and northwestern boundaries of Assiniboia afford excellent summer grazing grounds for cattle or sheep. Some favorable locations are, also, to be found along the valley of the South Saskatchewan River, where a home ranch may be combined with summer pasturage on the adjoining prairie areas.

The climate of Eastern Assiniboia is much the same as that of Manitoba, but Western Assiniboia feels the effects of the Chinook winds, which come from the Pacific Ocean, and remove much of the snow that falls during two or three months of the year. This circumstance, together with the rich growth of grass, has of late brought parts of Assiniboia into favor with cattle, sheep and horse raisers.

#### CLIMATE



# Alberta



THE district of Alberta has a total length from north to south of some 430 miles and an average width from east to west of about 250 miles, and contains an area of 106,100 square miles. The district is bounded on the east by the districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, on the south by the international boundary, on the west by the Province of British Columbia, and on the north by the district of Athabasca. Alberta comprises within its limits two divisions, showing marked distinctions in topographical and climatic conditions. The southern is an open, rolling country, devoid of timber, except along the streams and in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, while the northern half is more or less timbered throughout, the belts of timber being broken here and there by prairie openings, some of which are of considerable extent.

The advantages which the northern and southern portions of the district offer to the intending settler are so diverse in character that it is customary to speak of them separately as "Northern Alberta" and "Southern Alberta." Limited space prevents speaking of these more fully, but those desiring the information will find it in pamphlets issued by the Government and obtainable on application to any Government agent.

Southern Alberta is essentially a ranching and dairying country and offers unequalled opportunities for effort in that direction. The district is composed of high, open plains, broken by the valleys of numerous large streams which head in the Rocky Mountains and flow to the east, and the country becomes more or less rolling and hilly as the heads of these streams are approached. The valleys and bench lands produce a most luxurious and nutritious growth of native grasses, chief among which is the far-famed "bunch grass," and cattle, horses and sheep graze outside during the whole year, and hay is easily and cheaply secured for weak stock. With good management, the profits to stockmen are large, \$35 and \$45 per head being paid for steers last year on the ranges, the animals only costing their owners the interest on the original investment in stocking the ranch and their share of the annual round-up. Large bands of young stock are annually brought in from Eastern Canada and some of the Western American States to be fattened on the ranges, the profits being sufficiently large to amply recompense the re-shipment, after fattening, to European and other eastern markets. Mixed farming is successfully carried on pretty generally throughout the district, and at various places the dairy industry is rapidly developing. Though a large portion of Southern Alberta is bare of timber for fuel, this lack is amply compensated for by an inexhaustible supply of coal of excellent quality, which crops out at many points along the steep banks of the streams that plentifully water the country. The soil of the district is, as a whole, a good rich alluvial loam. In places gravel and sandy ridges are met, but in the valleys the accumulated silt deposit of ages has produced a soil of the richest kind and of great depth.

The climate of Southern Alberta is one of its most attractive features, the winters being mild, with very little snow, and the summers hot and dry. The rainfall in the district is small, averaging about twelve inches

### **ATTRACTIVE CLIMATE**

in the year, and while this amount of precipitation is not sufficient to ensure good crops in the majority of years, the aridity of the district constitutes its chief factor of value as a grazing country, the absence of rainfall during the late summer months causing the native grasses to become cured on the ground, retaining their nutritive qualities in such a manner that stock pastured thereon remain fat all winter. Cold and stormy weather is of course experienced at times during the winter months, but the prevailing warm winds which blow from the west, locally known as Chinook winds, rapidly dissipate any snow which falls, and for days at a time cause a rise in the thermometer to almost summer temperature.

In Southern Alberta irrigation is largely resorted to in producing grain and fodder crops, and by this means returns of the most satisfactory character are obtained. The large number of the streams flowing down from the mountains afford a bountiful supply of water for this purpose, and at the present time some three hundred miles of ditches and canals have been constructed to carry

### **SUPPLY OF WATER**

water for irrigation. These streams also afford an unfailing supply of pure and cold water for stock watering and daily operations, and, combined with the absence of flies during the hot summer months, produce the best results in the production of butter and cheese.

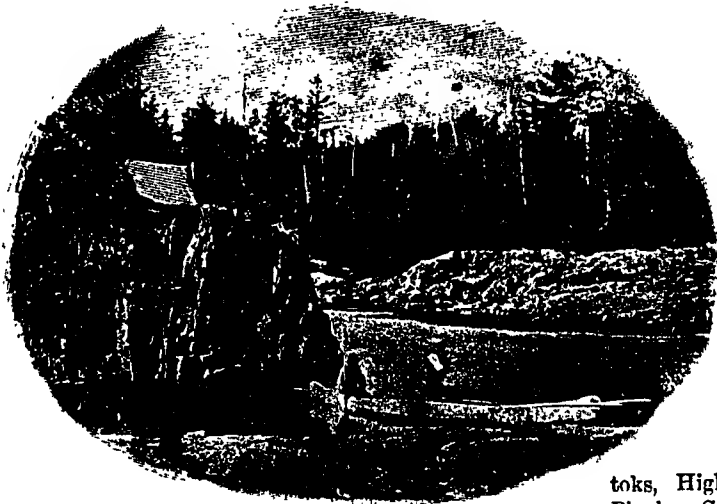
Southern Alberta is traversed from east to west by the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and from north to south by the Calgary and Edmonton

### **RAILWAY COMMUNICATION**

Railway, and in addition a branch of the former line runs through the southwestern portion from Lethbridge to Medicine Hat in Assiniboia, and from Lethbridge the Great Falls and Canada Railway extends to the south as far as the Great Northern Railway in Montana. Several important centres of trade are

situated in Southern Alberta, chief among which is the city of Calgary, at the junction of Canadian Pacific and Calgary and Edmonton Railways, and further to the south the thriving towns of Lethbridge and MacLeod. At these points ample banking and business facilities are to be found and several manufacturing industries have been commenced. Other towns in Alberta are Okotoks, High River, Cardston, and Pincher Creek. The district now contains a large settlement of ranch-

ers and dairy farmers, but many favorable locations are to be had by incoming immigrants who may desire to embark in either of these undertakings.





On the Brandon Experimental Farm

So much has been said and written of Northern Alberta that it seems scarcely possible to put forth anything new. Northern Alberta comprises that great fertile valley stretching from about forty miles north of Calgary on for two hundred miles more past the Red Deer River, the Battle River, North Saskatchewan and Sturgeon River.

## **NORTHERN ALBERTA**

It is a country well-wooded and well-watered, where a settler going with little means does not need to expend his capital altogether to provide shelter for himself and his stock. If he has not timber on his own land he can for 25 cents get a permit from the Government and cut 1801 lineal feet of building timber, 400 roof poles, 200 fence rails and 30 cords of dry wood, and put up his buildings. As for water, at a very high point in the prairie there is flowing out of the side of the hills and in the coulees springs of water that remain open the year round. The purest and best water can be obtained at from 15 to 30 feet.

The town of Edmonton, which is about the centre of the district, is in latitude 53 deg. 29 min. north, and longitude 113 deg. 49 min. west. It is, therefore, as far south as Dublin in Ireland, Liverpool and York in England, Hamburg in Germany, further south than any part of Scotland, Denmark, Norway or Sweden, and 455 miles further south than St. Petersburg, the capital of Russia.

The scenery is of varied beauty. No stern, rugged and awful mountains, nor long dead monotony of flat, treeless prairie strain the vision here. Level and rolling prairie, hill and dell, clad in grass and flowers, dotted with groves of aspen, poplar and spruce, delight the eye. Lakes, lakelets and ponds reflect the bright blue skies above, and the deep and magnificent valleys of the great Saskatchewan and other smaller, but not less beautiful water courses, lend boldness to a landscape of otherwise ideally pastoral prettiness. Not only when in verdure clad is the country lovely, for the white raiments of winter lend to the prospect a new and additional charm of indescribably pure beauty.

Nature, not content with providing those grand agricultural resources, which it is the purpose of this work to describe, has also conferred on the country vast mineral wealth, the possibilities of which are now only beginning to dawn on the minds of the people. Inexhaustible supplies of coal underlie the whole country and crop out on the sides of the valleys, rendering the work of mining so cheap that the fuel is sold at the mouth of the pit to farmers for 50 cents a ton, whilst it is delivered in the bins of the householders of Edmonton at \$1.60 per 2,000 lbs.

Gold dust of exceeding fineness, both in size and quality, has for over thirty years been washed out of the sands of the Saskatchewan River for 100 miles above and 200 miles below Edmonton, during low stages of water, by individual miners using only the primitive pick, shovel and grizzly. Quite recently scientific investigations have been made, with the result that some of the newest and best dredging and gold-saving machinery is to be put in operation, by a number of experienced miners with capital.

Dairying is carried on with great success, the country being pre-eminently fitted for it. To a wide range of the best wild pasture are added an abundant

## **DAIRYING**

water supply and shading and sheltering groves of trees. During the summer season the averages are for each cow, 4½ gallons of milk per day, 6½ lbs. of butter per week.

Wild hay is generally abundant, the varieties being numerous. Vetches, pea-vine, red top, blue joint and slough grass are the varieties chiefly used.

All the common garden vegetables grow to a perfection seldom witnessed outside of the district. Tomatoes and pumpkins, with proper care, grow well. Melons are also raised.



Wild fruits are plentiful. Strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, blueberries, cranberries, black currants and red and black cherries afford a variety of fruit of splendid flavor. No housewife is without an abundant supply of these preserves.

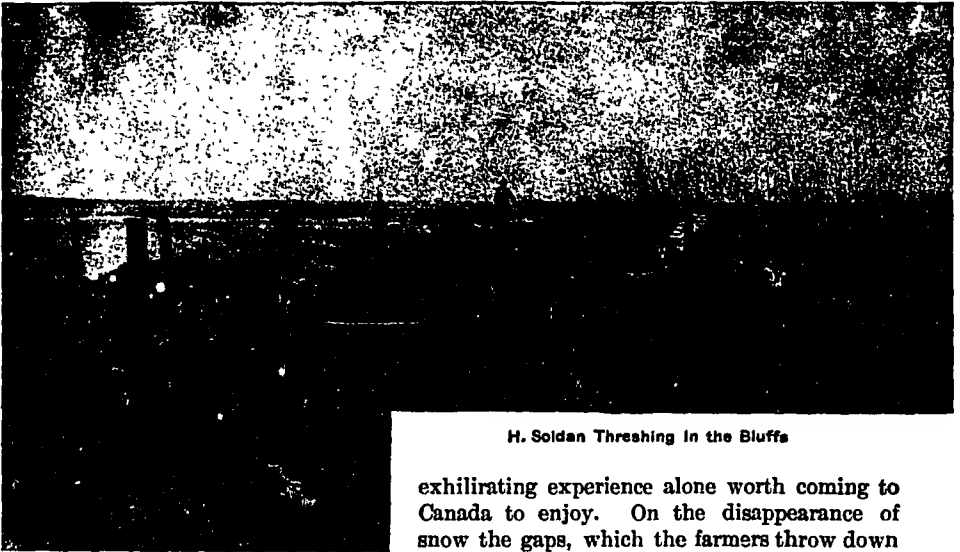
Wild hops grow luxuriantly, also hazel nuts.

The cultivated varieties of strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and gooseberries thrive. So does garden rhubarb.

During winter the snow and ice make the most perfect and direct sleigh roads, over which enormous loads are drawn with ease to market. By far the most traffic from farm to market and from hay meadow to farm yard is done in winter. This season, too, is taken advantage of in securing from the woods timber for building, fuel and

## ROADS

fencing. These winter roads are the best imaginable, whether for traffic or pleasure. One driving behind a good Canadian trotter, with his merry sleigh bells, wrapped in warm comfortable furs, in the bright and brilliant atmosphere of Alberta has an



H. Soldan Threshing in the Bluffs

exhilarating experience alone worth coming to Canada to enjoy. On the disappearance of snow the gaps, which the farmers throw down in their fences to permit direct sleigh roads

to pass through their fields, are again filled up, and summer travellers must then follow the road allowances. The old main roads and trails winding and following the best and easiest ground, are as a rule good highways formed by nature and merely the wear and tear of hoof and wheel. But in settled districts, where fences are necessary and rigid adherence to the straight surveyed road allowances between sections is compulsory, nature requires some assistance in road-making wherever the path over the prairie enters in its direct course woods and water. For such spots the government appropriation for road and bridge making is supplemented in some parts by the organization of statute labor districts, so that on the whole the summer roads are good; in most places exceptionally good. But in other places, where the settlement is new, the population sparse, the bush thick, and the government aid small, there is great need of improvement.

Besides the improvement of the local roads just mentioned, there is expressed a strong desire to open up a wagon road to the Peace River fur country to the north, and a wagon and pack trail to the mining region about the Jasper Pass in the Rocky Mountains. These would give a very much increased local market to

farmers for their produce, and the Government has now their construction under consideration.

The Saskatchewan river, which runs through the district, is yearly becoming of more use for local traffic, and in the coming summer is expected to be alive with dredges and tugs engaged in gold mining operations.

A very large proportion of the Territorial funds is spent on providing schools, not only to populous but more especially to sparsely populated settlements. The

#### **SCHOOLS.**

proportion furnished by the localities in which rural schools are situated is very small, the tax therefore being about \$5.00 annually for each 160-acre farm. This rate for schools, with another small amount payable in money or its equivalent in labor under the statute labor and fire district ordinance, constitute the sole direct taxation levied in the country.

Religious privileges are fully and freely enjoyed by all denominations. The

#### **CHURCHES**

Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodist, Baptist, Roman Catholic and the Lutheran churches are ably represented by resident and travelling clergymen.

The inestimable privileges of British law and order are here enjoyed to the fullest extent. The aboriginal hunting Indians are now being transformed into

#### **LAW AND ORDER**

farmers, herdsmen and mechanics on their own reserves, where they are treated kindly and wisely as wards of the Government of a Christian country, which recognizes its duties as the keeper of our red-skinned brethren.

During the busy spring, summer and autumn farmers have little time to devote to social gatherings and amusements. The winter affords more leisure and better opportunities for such enjoyments. The new settler

#### **AMUSEMENTS AND SPORTS**

has little time for amusements which would take him long away from his farm and stock in winter. Those who have got over the initial difficulties of newly settling amuse themselves in every variety of way, according to taste. In summer, picnics, horse-racing, riding, driving, bicycling, shooting, boating, canoeing, fishing, football, cricket, lacrosse, baseball, golf, lawn tennis, and croquet are all mentioned; also duck shooting in spring and deer hunting in fall. Dances, concerts, amateur theatricals, literary, debating and other societies' meetings, card parties and other indoor amusements are enjoyed in winter; while trapping, sleighing, tobogganing, snowshoeing, skating, ice-boating, curling, hockey and other outdoor sports suitable to the climate are keenly gone into.

Game is to be found either rare or plentiful according to locality, season and circumstances. The hare (generally called rabbit in this country) increases prodigiously in numbers and disappears periodically every few

#### **GAME**

years. The lynx is also a notable example of this periodic ebb and flow in numbers. The most plentiful are ducks of many varieties, the grouse (generally called prairie chicken), and the hare, known as the rabbit. To these add, in lesser numbers, geese, swans, loons, pelicans, cranes, partridges, snipe, plover; moose, red, black-tailed and other deer; and of the furry tribe, too many of the small variety of wolf called coyote, a few skunks and foxes, an occasional black or brown bear and timber wolf; some badgers, ermines, lynx, muskrats, martins, minks, fishers, otters and wolverines.

There are sturgeon, catfish and trout in the Saskatchewan river; pike, pickerel, carp and gold eyes occur in that and other streams and lakes. In several lakes, such as Pigeon, St. Anne and Lac la Biche, the beautiful and nutritious white-fish abound.



Pleasant School, Manitoba

Particulars as to vacant lands can best be obtained from the local agents the Dominion Government, of the railway companies, of the Hudson's Bay and other land companies, as well as by applying to the parties whose advertisements of lands for sale appear in the end of this hand book. The average prices of lands for sale are: Wild lands belonging to the Government, and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, \$3.00 per acre; wild lands belonging to other corporations and private parties, \$4.25 per acre; improved lands belonging to private owners, \$7.25 per acre.

The reader will, of course, recollect that one-half of the land in each township is given as free homesteads to actual settlers, and the particulars of the vacant free grant lands are to be had at the resident Dominion lands agents at Edmonton and Red Deer.

### THE FINANCIAL QUESTION.

Does farming pay? In reply to this crucial question the under noted figures give the average results of 7½ years' farming:—

	Value on taking possession.	Value in 1897.
Land.....	\$ 664	\$1,964
Buildings .....	34	478
Fences .....	7	141
Implements .....	55	404
Produce on hand.....	15	178
Live stock of all kinds.....	254	938
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$1,029	\$4,103
		1,029
		<hr/>
Gain in 7½ years.....		\$3,074

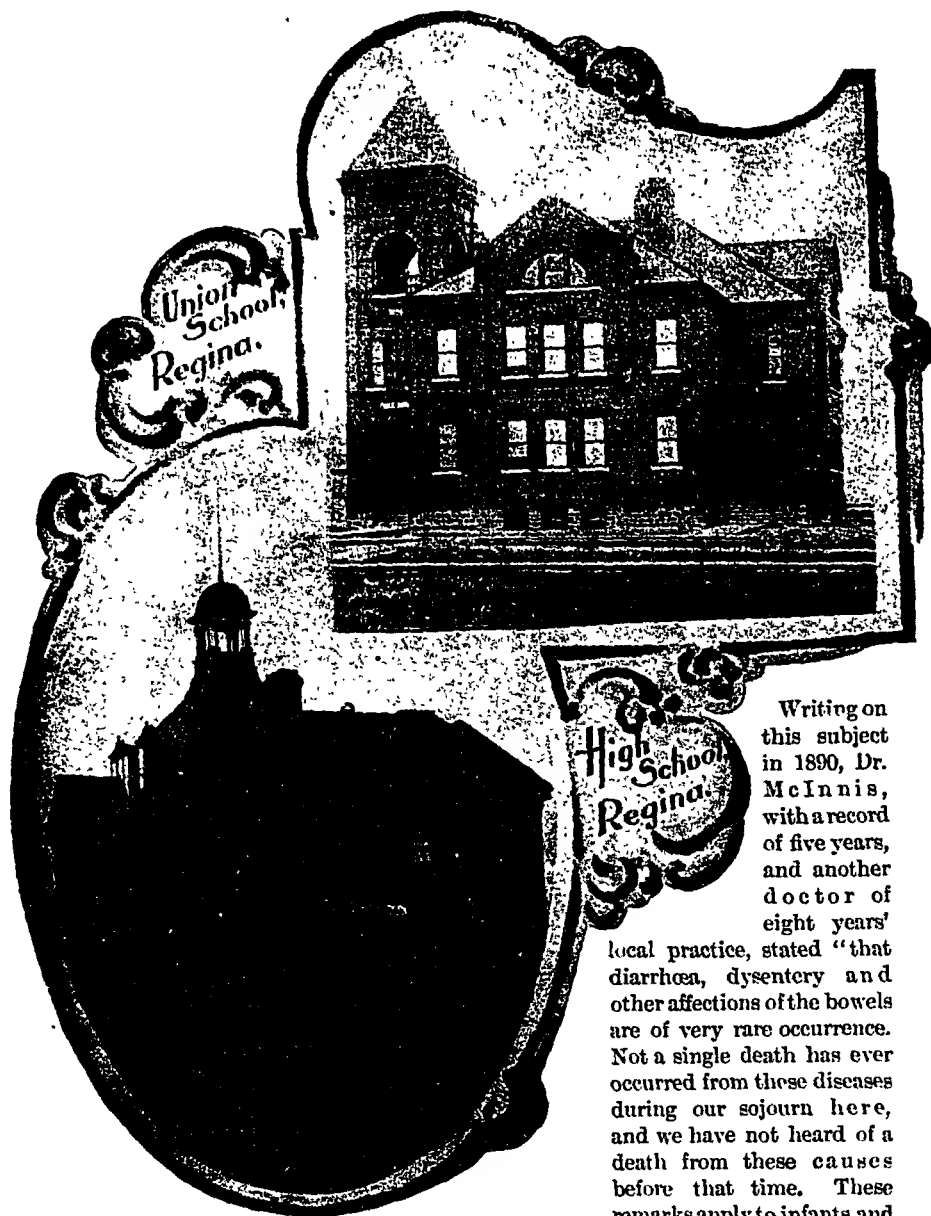
Being an average increase of nearly \$400 a year.

The fur trade called the town of Edmonton into existence long before the construction of railways, and, although its active importance as compared with other industries is not now so great, its positive importance is increasing yearly. Already its proportions may be judged from the fact that over \$100,000 worth of furs are annually shipped by private buyers direct to London; and its importance in giving employment to freighters and boatmen, and in affording a local market for farm produce, is very great.

There is probably no country in the world where so excellent opportunities exist for the skillful employment of the money of small capitalists under their personal supervision.

The first necessity for a healthy climate is a sufficient supply of wholesome water. The water supply in Edmonton is abundant and wholesome in every particular from a sanitary point of view. The air is clear, pure and aseptic, containing a large proportion of ozone—the natural air purifier. As to the soil in reference to its influence on health, it is only necessary to state that it does not breed the miasma of malaria which is the cause of ague in its many forms; nor, owing to the altitude and low mean temperature, can malaria ever exist in the district.

The climate is not only invigorating to adults, whether in full health or otherwise, but seems to have a special influence in developing strong and healthy children. This is most marked in summer.



Writing on this subject in 1890, Dr. McInnis, with a record of five years, and another doctor of eight years'

local practice, stated "that diarrhoea, dysentery and other affections of the bowels are of very rare occurrence. Not a single death has ever occurred from these diseases during our sojourn here, and we have not heard of a death from these causes before that time. These remarks apply to infants and children, as well as to adults.

"No better climate for children than that of Northern Alberta is to be found in America.

"Cases of consumption, asthma, all chest and throat diseases, rheumatism, ague, and many other diseases, are always greatly benefitted and very often cured by a residence here. Typhoid fever is not prevalent, in fact we are almost exempt from it."

To the country north of Alberta lies that drained by the Peace and Athabasca Rivers. The country that they drain has been valuable for fisheries, furs and ores. Careful students of the Northwest, however, are fast coming to the belief that the valleys of the Peace and Athabasca Rivers comprise the most extensive ranching and the most prolific wheat-growing region in North America. Without

seeking to weary the reader with proof of this, it may be of interest to quote extracts from a recent lecture by Mr. J. W. Tyrrell before the Canadian Institute,

### THE PEACE AND ATHABASCA RIVERS

to the effect that "the Mackenzie basin is one of the richest wheat districts on the continent, the section between and including Athabasca, Peace and the Liard Valleys being a major part of it. The Upper Peace River Valley has a climate milder than that of Manitoba and comparing favorably

with that of Ontario. Mexican cactus grows wild on the eastern Rocky Mountain slopes. Wild flowers bloom before they do about Toronto. This phenomenon has attracted the attention of scientific men, and perhaps the best explanation has been made by Prof. Macoun before the Senate Committee, in which he ascribed it to the 'Chinook winds' which are heated on the arid plains of New Mexico and then pass along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, not dissipating their heat entirely until they reach the Arctic circle near the delta of the Mackenzie River. From this cause the isothermal lines marking the limit of cereal cultivation are as near to the Arctic Ocean in the Mackenzie River Valley as to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This renders the Peace and Liard Valleys suited for wheat-raising, so far as climate is concerned. Another fact is that the heads of wheat on each stalk are larger the higher the latitude in which they grow."

Professor Macoun, a careful observer, on passing down the Athabasca over twenty years ago, found growing on soil that would be of no use in Ontario, and consisting of sand, muck and swamp, wheat that the residents had planted on the 5th of May. He found it in stock on August 26th, and brought away grain that took the prize at the Centennial in Philadelphia. A quantity of it was shelled and found to weight 68 pounds to the bushel. Prof. Dawson is of the opinion that the greater length of the summer day, eighteen hours of sunlight, in these northern valleys has much to do with the rapid growth of vegetation in the Mackenzie basin.



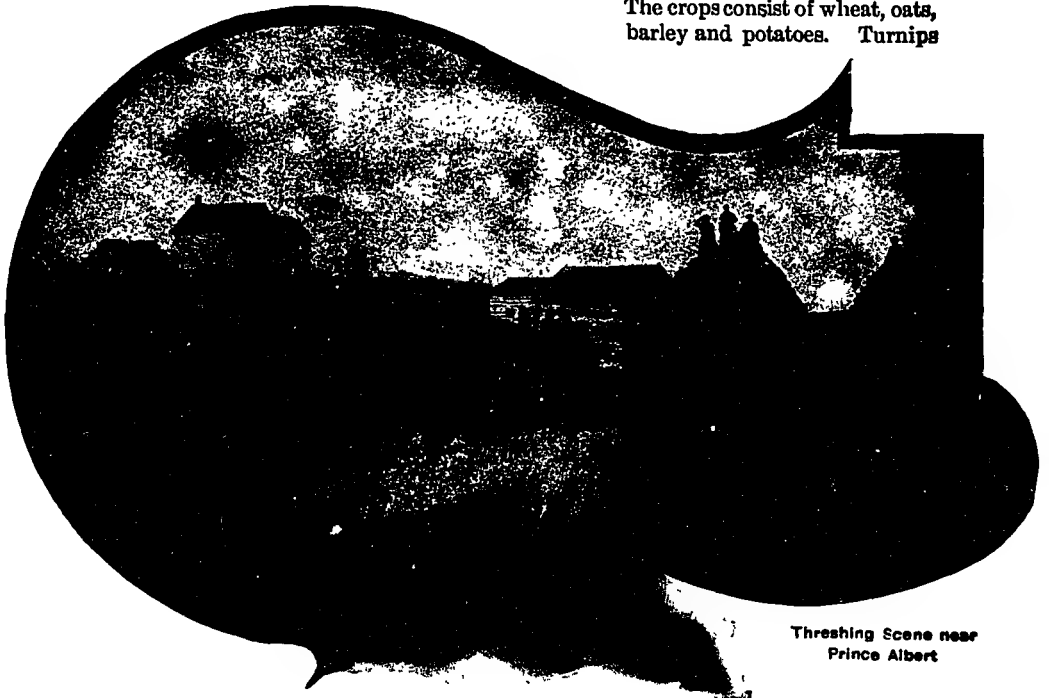
# Saskatchewan



**S**ASKATCHEWAN lying north of Assiniboia, is the largest of the four provisional districts which were carved out of the territories by the Dominion Parliament in 1882. Its area is 106,700 square miles. In shape it is an oblong parallelogram, which extends from Nelson River, Lake Winnipeg, and the western boundary of Manitoba, on the east, to the 112th degree of west longitude on the west, and lies between or rather slightly overlaps, the 52nd and the 55th parallels of north latitude. It is almost centrally divided by the main Saskatchewan River, which is altogether within the district, and by its principal branch, the North Saskatchewan, most of whose navigable length lies within its boundaries.

It includes in the south a small proportion of the great plains, and in its general superficial features may be described as a mixed prairie and wooded region, abounding in water and natural hay, and well suited by climate and soil for the raising of wheat, horned cattle and sheep. Settlement is at present chiefly in the Prince Albert, Rosthern, Duck Lake, Shell River, Batoche, Stony Creek, Carlton, Carrott River, Birch Hills, The Forks, St. Laurent, St. Louis de Langevin, and the Battleford districts, in nearly all of which there is a great quantity of the best land open for selection free to homesteaders, i. e., settlers who take up Government land to cultivate and live upon it. In great measure that which may be said of one district

applies equally to the others. The crops consist of wheat, oats, barley and potatoes. Turnips



Threshing Scene near  
Prince Albert

and all kinds of vegetables are raised successfully. Normal yield of wheat (Red Fyfe), about thirty bushels to the acre, in favorable seasons; one to one and a-half bushels sown to the acre. Oats, about sixty bushels, from three sown to the acre. Barley has not been grown extensively, there being no demand for any quantity of this cereal in the district; but it has always given a good yield in favorable seasons. There has never been a failure of crops, and settlers enjoy a steady home market, at which they realize good prices for their products. The district is well supplied with good roads, and they are kept open winter and summer. Wild fruits of nearly every variety—strawberry, raspberry, gooseberry, blueberry, high bush cranberry, black currants, etc.—grow in profusion, and small game is plentiful.

The climate is healthy, and free from endemic or epidemic diseases. It is bracing and salubrious, and is undoubtedly the finest climate on earth for constitutionally healthy people. Average summer temperature about 60. The reason for the equability of the temperature

### CLIMATE.

in summer has not yet been thoroughly investigated, but the water stretches may be found to account for it. Spring opens about the beginning of April. Seeding is generally completed in May. Third week in August is usually the time when harvest begins. During winter settlers are generally employed in getting out rail for fencing, logs for building purposes and fuel, and in attending to cattle and doing work which cannot be undertaken during busy seasons of spring or summer.

The country is remarkably well adapted for stock-raising, and large shipments are made annually. Cattle must be fed, and should be sheltered three months to

### STOCK RAISING, RANCHING, ETC.

four months every winter. For bands of from 300 to 500 it is unsurpassed. Horses winter out well, and can, therefore, be kept in large bands. Sheep require the same care as cattle, and are better in small flocks.

Any portion of this district will answer all the requirements for dairy farming. In and on the slopes of the Eagle Hills, or south of the Saskatchewan would be most suitable, owing to the luxuriance of the grass and prevalence of springs. North of the Saskatchewan there is abundance of grass in many places,

### DAIRY FARMING, ETC.

particularly in the vicinity of Jackfish Lake and Turtle Mountain. In the former district an extensive creamery has been established, which makes large shipments to British Columbia. Pure water is in abundance everywhere. Nights are cool. The home demand has always been very large, so that dairy products command good prices.

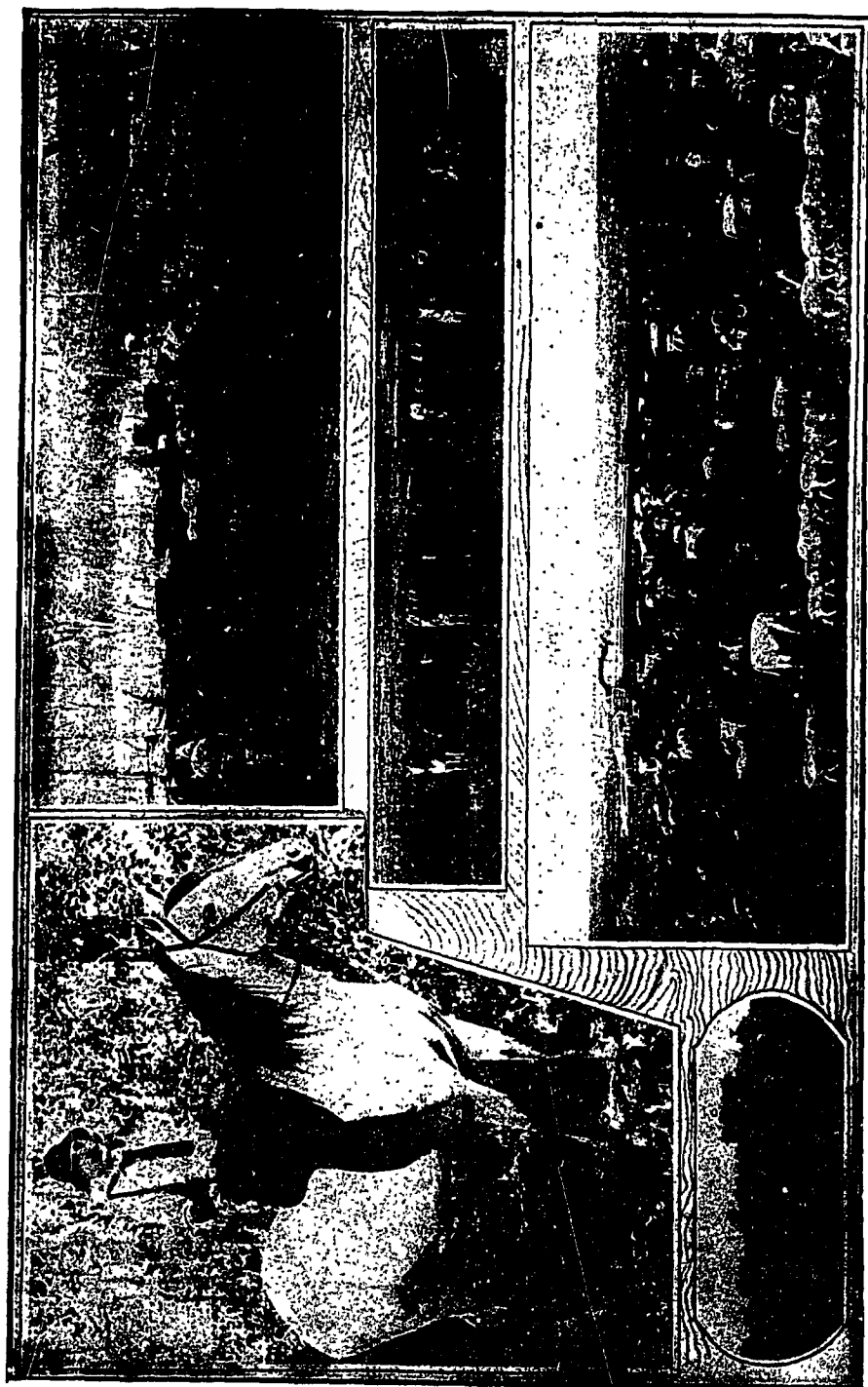
As there is nothing that can be published concerning the advantages and capabilities of a country so convincing as the written testimony of bona-fide settlers, a number of letters from men in the Prince Albert and other districts of Western Canada have been published in pamphlet form. These men, for the most part, possessed little or no means to start with, but they came, saw, and conquered, and are now, as their evidence shows, fairly prosperous.

### LETTERS FROM SETTLERS

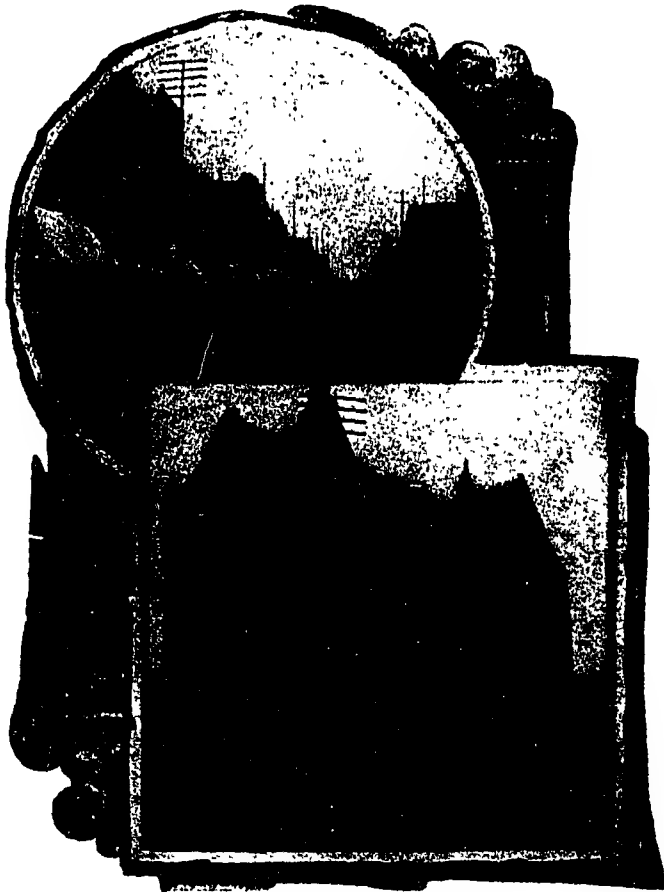
The tide of immigration to the Saskatchewan district has been steadily increasing year by year, as the country has become better known, and doubtless it will receive a very considerable impulse with the spread of railway communication and the greater facility thus afforded for marketing produce.

The settlements of Stony Creek and Carrot River, in the Kinistino District, containing some of the best farming country in the Territories, have hitherto suffered greatly in respect of lack of communication, the former being seventy-five and the latter forty miles distant from Prince Albert; yet in spite of this great drawback we find abundant evidence of prosperity among the settlers. Messrs. W.





A Typical Rancher—Cowboys and Ranchers



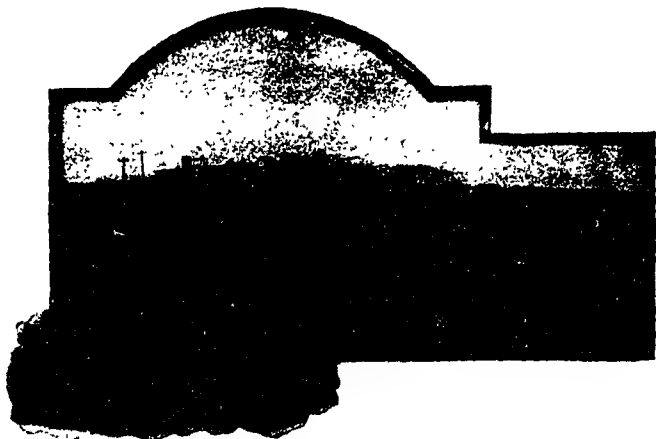
Calgary, Alberta: Street Scene -- Molsons Bank

F. Meyers, M.L.A., Chas. Lowrie and Thos. Sanderson, of Carrot River, and Mr. Reginald Beatty, of Stony Creek (whose letter speaks for itself), may be cited among others in support of this assertion.

In the neighborhood of Prince Albert we may select from the numerous instances of men, who may be classed as successful farmers, the names of Messrs. A. Knox and Alex. Loudoun, of Colleston; Thos. F. Miller, of Kirkpatrick, and Thos. McKay and R. Giles, of Prince Albert. All these gentlemen have for greater or less periods been engaged in farming in the adjacent districts, and will be pleased to answer any inquiries which may be addressed to them concerning the capabilities of the country and the prospect it holds out to immigrants desirous of taking up homesteads for agricultural purposes.

The town of Prince Albert, owing perhaps to its outlying position, and not being within the circle of the "booming" interests of great financial syndicates, has not hitherto attained as much notoriety as it merits for its considerable and rapidly increasing commercial importance, both in itself and as the centre and base of supplies of a vast and thriving agricultural area. Most picturesquely situated on the north branch of the Saskatchewan, Prince Albert, in addition to its numerous stores and business houses, is the seat of various industries. Three lumber mills are now kept in full operation; two in the town and a third at Steep Creek, a few miles distant. From these mills a large quantity of lumber is exported by the railway, in addition to the supply required for the new buildings which are constantly being erected in Prince Albert.

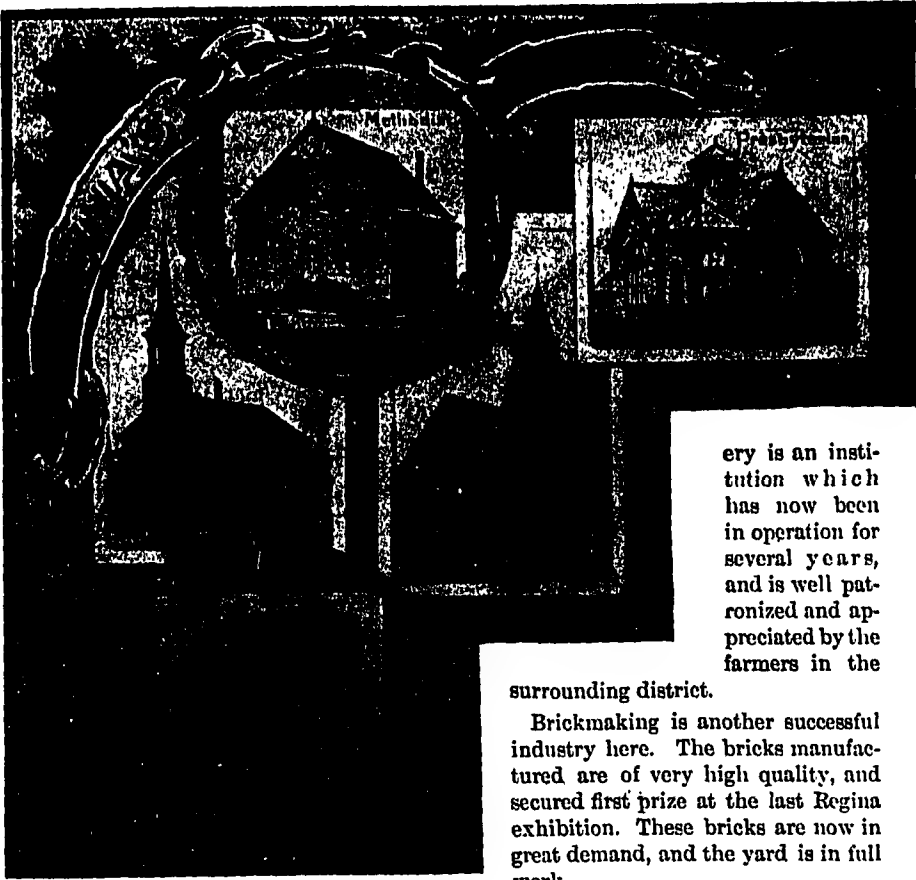
Of flour mills there are two, having each a capacity of one hundred barrels per diem, and producing a quality of flour second to none. The Prince Albert cream-



View of a portion of Prince Albert



Creameries and Fish Hatchery



ery is an institution which has now been in operation for several years, and is well patronized and appreciated by the farmers in the

surrounding district.

Brickmaking is another successful industry here. The bricks manufactured are of very high quality, and secured first prize at the last Regina exhibition. These bricks are now in great demand, and the yard is in full work.

The Prince Albert town hall is a handsome red brick edifice, occupying a central position in the town, fitted with every modern convenience, and admirably adapted for all purposes for which it was designed.

The rising generation is much in evidence in Prince Albert. The children, with their rosy cheeks and healthy, robust appearance, bear testimony to the bracing properties of the Saskatchewan climate. And for their educational needs ample provision has been made, the public schools having accommodation for upwards of five hundred scholars. Nor have the spiritual wants of the citizens been neglected. Every Sunday may be heard the bells of the various churches—Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists—all are represented; while on the west side of the town stands the Roman Catholic cathedral, an imposing building, having in its immediate vicinity the bishop's residence. Prince Albert, take it all in all, is a charming little town—picturesque, healthy, cleanly and progressive; while the surrounding district, extending over a vast area of the splendid grain-growing land, offers exceptional advantages; possessing, as it does, a splendidly fertile soil, a climate healthy in the extreme, and like other portions of Western Canada, enjoying complete immunity from destructive cyclones, blizzards, etc. The suitability of this country for agricultural immigrants requires only to become generally known; and those seeking information on this subject, can surely find no better guide than the experiences of those who have gone before; who have tested the country, and found it not wanting, and are now rejoicing in the fullness thereof.

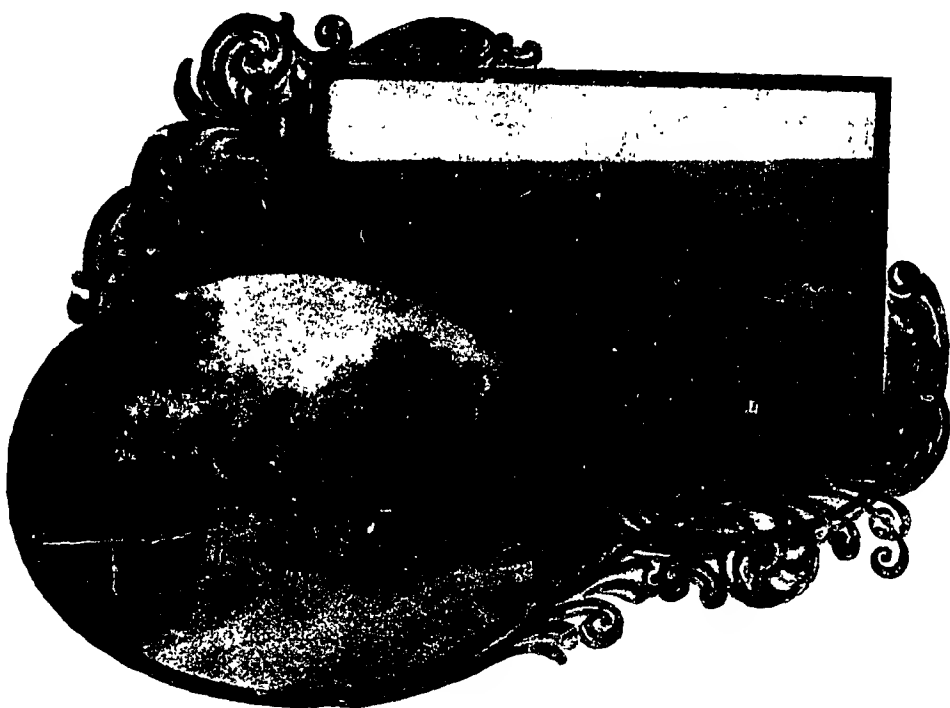
Those desirous of securing further information, by making application to the Superintendent of Immigration, Ottawa, Canada, or to any agent of the Government, whose addresses are given in this book, will have sent to them any or all of the Canadian Government publications, such as

"HINTS TO SETTLERS"

"LETTERS FROM DELEGATES"

"FACTS IN PICTURE"

"ATLAS OF WESTERN CANADA."



Lawson's Farm, Views near Regina



Hillside Farm, near Prince Albert. Property of Thos. McKay, Esq., M. L. A.

## Addresses of Agents

### IN ENGLAND

SECRETARY CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,  
17 Victoria Street, S. W., London.

ALFRED JURY, 15 Water Street, Liverpool.

G. H. MITCHELL, 15 Water Street, Liverpool.

H. L. GRIFFITH, 10 The Walk, Cardiff, Wales.

### IN IRELAND

C. R. DEVLIN, Canadian Commissioner of Immigration,  
14 Westinorland Street, Dublin.

JOHN WEBSTER, 30 Upper Leeson Street, Dublin.

EDWARD O'KEELY, Harbor Board Buildings, Londonderry.

### IN SCOTLAND

H. M. MURRAY, 52 St. Enoch Square, Glasgow.

W. G. STUART, 66 South Gildry Street, Elgin.

THOMAS DUNCAN, Carnousie, Forfarshire.

JOHN GRANT, Parkhurst, Dumfries.



Government House, Parliament Buildings, and Pleasant Spots in Winnipeg

## IN THE UNITED STATES

M. V. McINNES, No. 2 Merrill Block, Detroit, Michigan.  
D. L. CAVEN, Bad Axe, Michigan.  
JAMES GRIEVE, Mount Pleasant, Michigan.  
J. S. CRAWFORD, 214 W. Ninth Street, Kansas City, Missouri.  
BENJAMIN DAVIES, 154 East Third Street, St. Paul, Minn.  
T. O. CURRIE, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.  
C. J. BROUGHTON, 1223 Monadnock Building, Chicago, Ill.  
W. V. BENNETT, 801 New York Life Building, Omaha, Neb.  
W. H. ROGERS, Watertown, South Dakota.  
N. BARTHOLOMEW, 306 Fifth Street, Des Moines, Iowa.  
J. H. M. PARKER, 502 Palladio Building, Duluth, Minn.  
WILLIAM RITCHIE, Grafton, North Dakota.  
E. T. HOLMES, 154 E. Third Street, St. Paul, Minn.

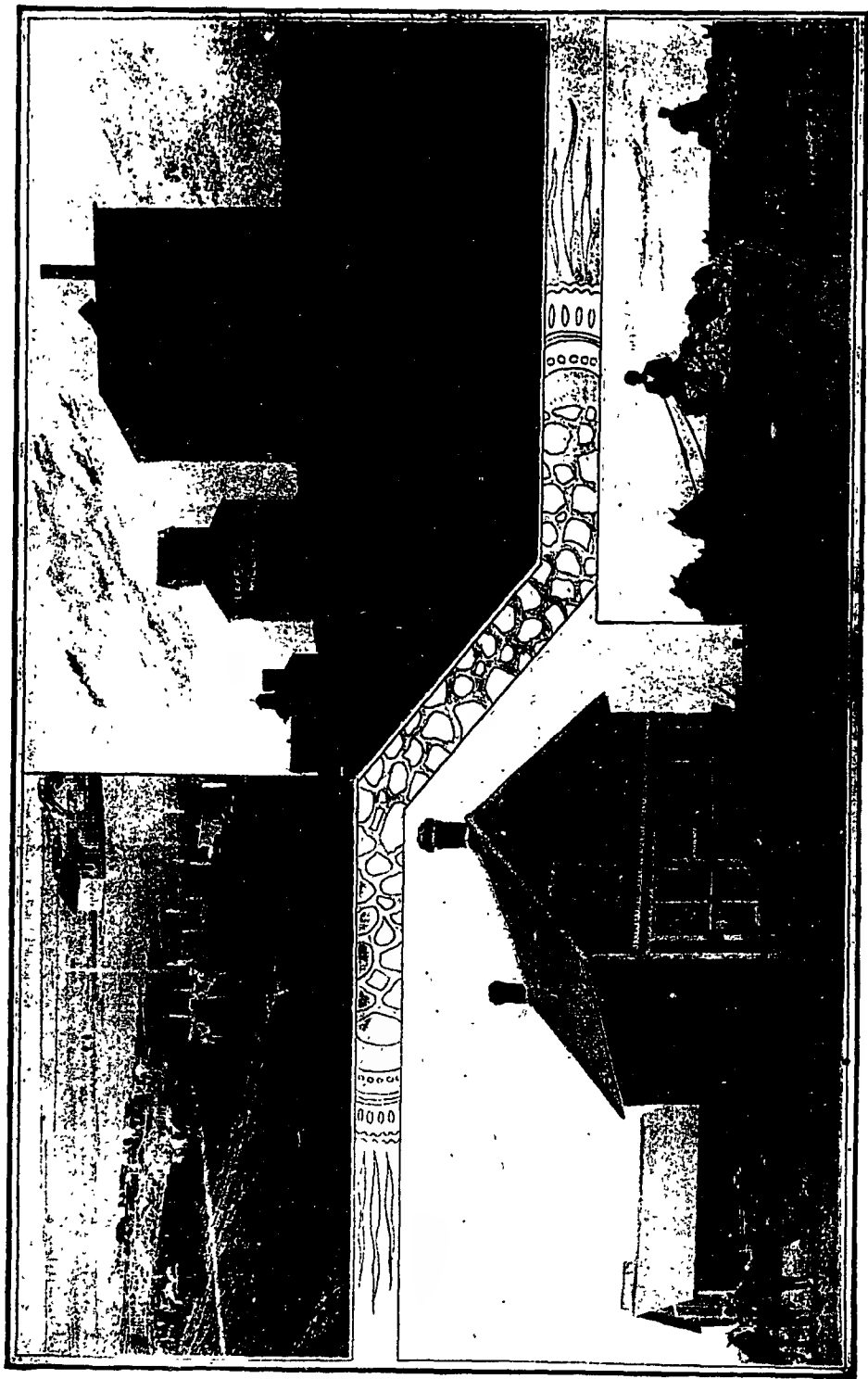
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## Free Temporary Accommodation

Halls for the free temporary accommodation of intending settlers are maintained by the Government of Canada at

EAST SELKIRK	}	Manitoba
WINNIPEG		
DAUPHIN		
BRANDON		
CALGARY	}	N. W. T.
RED DEER		
YORKTON		
EDMONTON		
PRINCE ALBERT	}	P. Q.
QUEBEC		
HALIFAX		N. S.





Bull Teams After Delivering Hay

Typical Prairie Store and Dwelling

Elevators at Station

Hauling Grain to Market

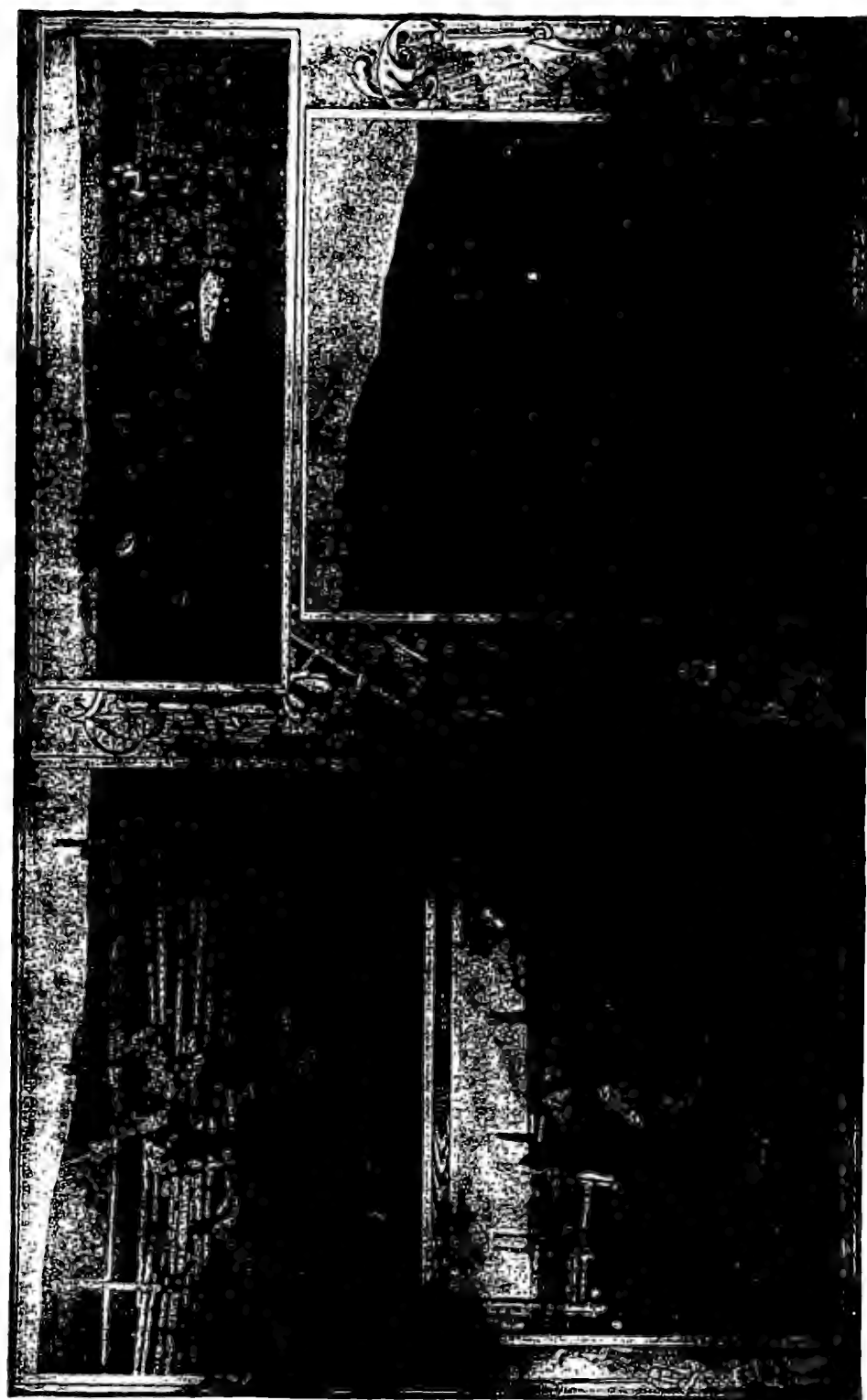
## Information and Advice

Information and advice can be freely obtained from the Immigration Commissioner at Winnipeg; from the agents in charge of the halls above mentioned, and the Dominion Lands Agents at

BATTLEFORD, . . .	Saskatchewan
CALGARY, . . .	Alberta
ALAMEDA, . . .	Assiniboia
EDMONTON, . . .	Alberta
KAMLOOPS, . . .	British Columbia
DAUPHIN (sub-district),	Manitoba
LETHBRIDGE, . . .	Alberta
MINNEDOSA, . . .	Manitoba
NEW WESTMINSTER, .	British Columbia
PRINCE ALBERT, . .	Saskatchewan
REGINA, . . .	Assiniboia
RED DEER, . . .	Alberta
BRANDON, . . .	Manitoba
SWIFT CURRENT, . .	Assiniboia
YORKTON, . . .	Assiniboia
WETASKIWIN, . . .	Alberta
WINNIPEG, . . .	Manitoba



An Elk Team



Branding and Home of a Rancher

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WESTERN  
CANADA